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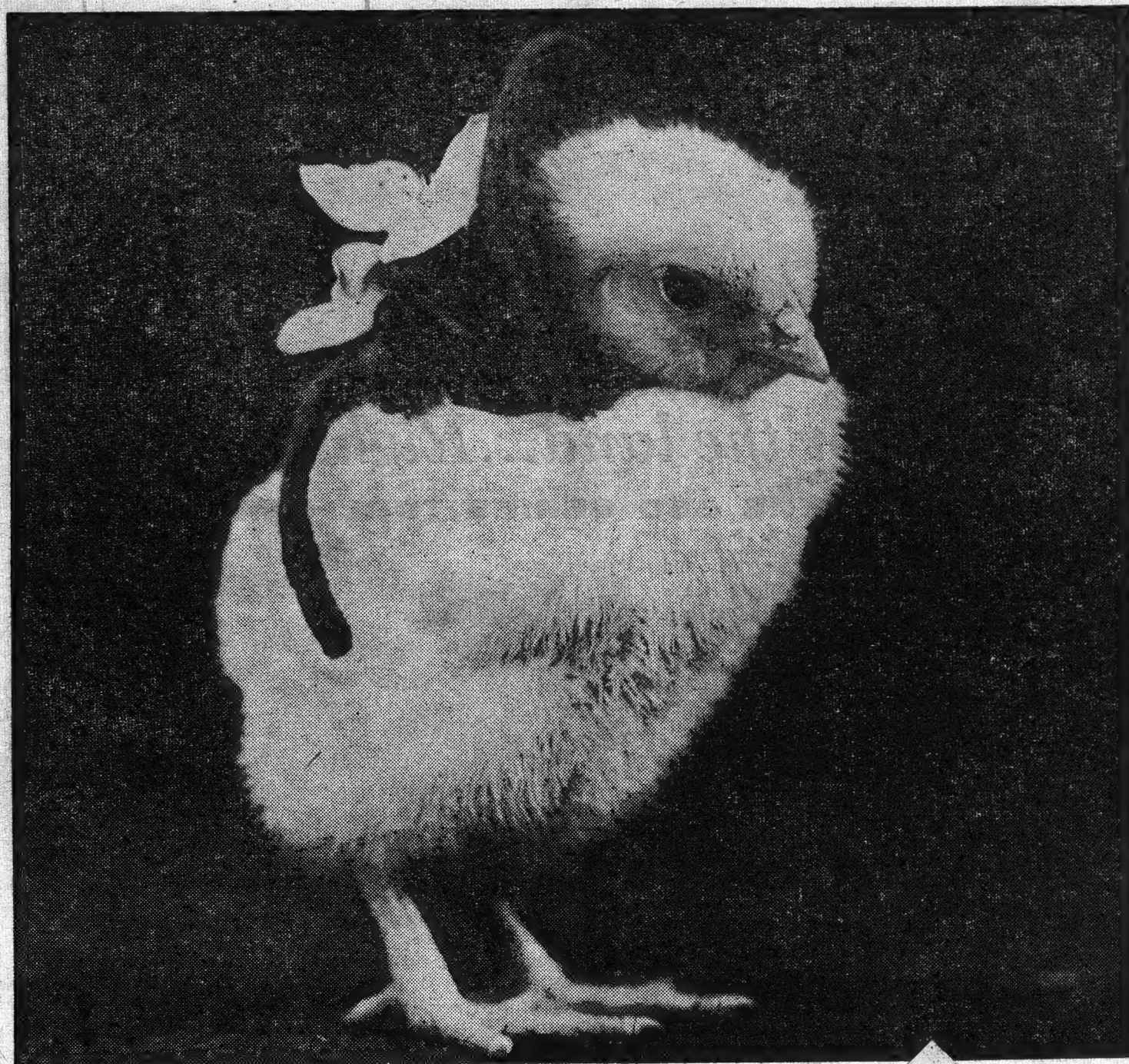
Farm and Ranch Review

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NUMBER 4

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

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CALGARY, ALBERTA
APRIL, 1958



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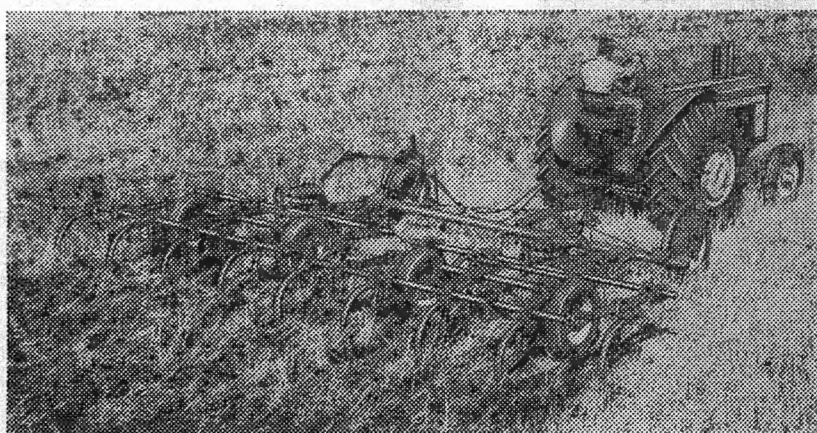
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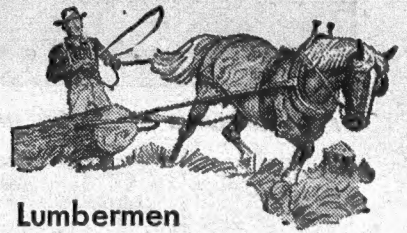
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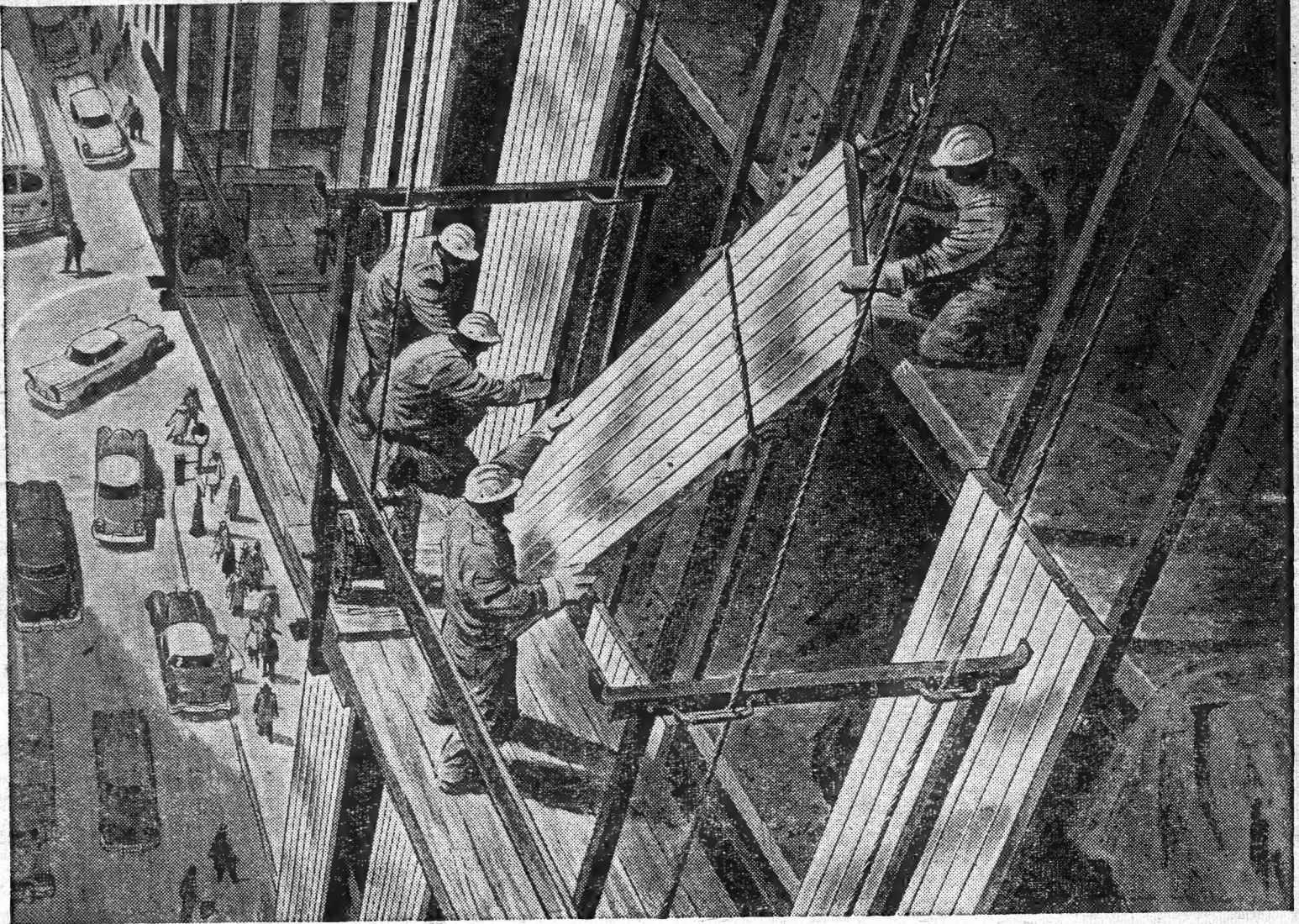
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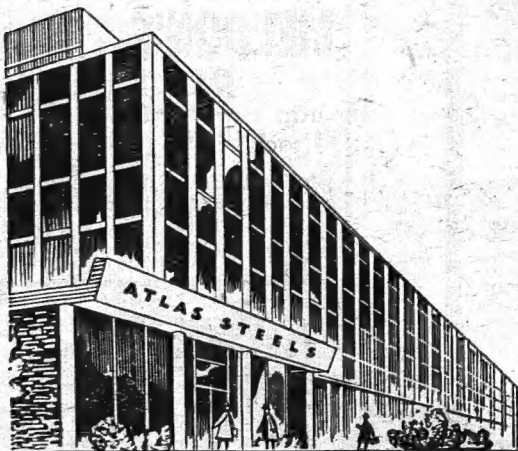
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Editorials . . .

No recession in government

What is the unemployment rate of the bureaucrats?

ARGUING with a politician is like trying to read a newspaper in a high wind.

Perhaps with the federal election all wrapped up, we can now get someone to listen to a small word of warning. For weeks prior to the balloting, candidates of all parties, from coast to coast, tried to outdo one another in pledging bigger and better giveaways from the public treasury.

Election candidates tend to suffer from an occupational disability which could be charitably called exaggeration. Therefore it would be incautious, to say the least, to swallow holus-bolus all the promises prior to

the election. Yet the common attitude left us with misgivings. We can only hope that the new parliament will accept its responsibilities and tone down some of these promises; and bring about substantial economies in the costs of big government.

It's all very well to live high on the hog and experiment with culture grants and fancy welfare schemes during periods of expansion and prosperity. Industry is in a little better state to carry on its back the growing army of bureaucrats and their hobbies. But when things get tough and industry must tighten its belt, why does government not do the same? Just the opposite

happens, with the bureaucrats spending even more in the name of recession control!

Is it really necessary to have more than the bare essentials of government at a time like this? Can we afford the drag of big government with its fancy trimmings? If the government can operate on a surplus as it has for several years, why can it not drastically cut its taxes and operate on a deficit for a similar period?

No government has a magic formula for prosperity. Industry alone can do this; the government only creates a healthy climate while industry fights its way back to health. Continuing high taxes do not lend to a healthy economic climate. And funneling people's earnings through the civil service and back to the voters in unemployment relief is certainly a costly game. Not only that but public works and camouflaged doles set up a rival economy to compete with private business and many actually hinder their recovery.

Clearing out the bureaucracy in government will permit more tax cuts than anything else and leave the expansion money to industry instead of public works, and the purchasing power in the individual's pocket where it belongs.

The unemployment rate has been hovering close to ten percent of the total working force. What, by comparison, is the unemployment rate of the bureaucrats?

More 'expert' advice

CANADIAN farmers are weary of being told that their problems would be solved if only they were more efficient.

The latest "expert" to beat this tired drum was an economist from Manitoba, who felt he'd put the problem in a nut-shell with six basic suggestions. In brief, he called for greater farmer education; more local industry; diverting more land to pasture, forest and recreation; expanded research; gearing farm credit to the economic-sized farm; and a realization that the farm problem is one of economic size of farm rather than prices.

Taken all together these boil down to a simple suggestion that farmers forget their dream of a fair return for their products, but keep the consumer happy by cutting production costs.

Of course farmers welcome more education, but they are already producing surpluses under the present standards, and any suggestion that more education will qualify farmers for industrial jobs, local or otherwise, has nothing to do with the cost-price problem. It is running away from the problem and not solving it. It isn't jobs the farmers want. There's already a labor shortage in the country. They only want a fair wage for their labor.

Using more land for pasture, forest and recreation would cut production by reducing seeded acreage. What has this to do with efficiency of production and the economic-sized unit of farming?

Expanding research is commendable (especially in marketing) but farmers are now efficiently producing surpluses even with current plant and insect diseases, weeds, non-resistant varieties of plants and insufficient fertilizer.

Gearing farm credit to economic-sized units is straight paternalism. Farmers know they'd like to expand without an economist to remind them, and most would happily expand if the cash return for their produce would allow them to without going into debt.

You can't tell thousands of Prairie farmers that they aren't efficient when their granaries, tool sheds, barns and even houses are loaded with grain they can't sell. More efficiently would just send them out for lumber to build more storage space.

A smoke-screen of figures and a barrage of high-sounding technical terms will never convince the Prairie farmer that he is being fairly treated when the profits are divided. Many are already working for nothing and they know that once their products leave their hands, everyone along the line, from the shipper to the corner grocer, will make a tidy income.

This has nothing to do with efficiency. The basic problem is still the cost-price squeeze.

Financial box score

For a bushel of turnips:

The consumer pays about \$4.50.

The farmer receives about \$1.20.

Someone makes a profit, but it's not the farmer. Turnips require no packing or processing, only handling and washing. If the farmer gave away his turnips, they would still cost the consumer \$3.30 a bushel.

Socialist ten-pins

SOMEONE is finally getting around to revising the ground rules of Ottawa's old inheritance tax game... a socialist version of ten-pins that sets you up in business to knock you down later. The proposed revision would have the effect of removing all taxes on the first \$50,000 of a farmer's estate.

Such a correction would break a link in the socialist chain-gang that threatens to force everyone to work for the State. The present system of inheritance taxes forms the trap for the thousands of young men on the prairies who hope to carry on the family farm.

The trap is simple. A man spends a lifetime of backbreaking toil turning a patch of empty acreage into a show-place of intelligent enterprise. On his death, the inheritance taxes are slapped on without mercy and the son faces the choice of moving off the farm he helped build or going into debt to keep the tax collector at arm's length.

The government (from whom all good things flow) helps him to make the right decision. It sets him up in business with a long term loan that will hang over his head for the next 20 to 40 years. He's captured! He spends the greater part of his life working, not for himself, but for the government, paying income taxes and paying back his loan. Finally, just as he gets his head above water, the property is passed on to his youngsters and the government taxes knock it down again with another round of inheritance taxes. Then it starts all over with the son stepping on the same treadmill for the better part of his life... and going nowhere.

The simple solution is this. If the government didn't collect such a sizeable inheritance tax on property, it would not have to

(Continued from page 5)

advance a loan. The same end would be achieved financially, but above and beyond that, the young farmer would have his freedom instead of working most of his life for the State.

It would be unfair to suggest that our present government was consciously plotting to put the nation in bondage. But it is equally unfair to deny that the welfare state with all its seeming advantages is stealing our individual freedom in a hundred little ways. Every section of the community is making demands from the public treasury for "culture", "security", permanent grants and subsidies, pensions and non-contributory health schemes . . . all the many things that we are turning over to the civil service to do for us. Whenever we turn over a personal responsibility to someone else, we also turn over a personal privilege.

The great tragedy of socialist principles is that the deserving are forced to carry the undeserving on their backs. This was never more true than in the case of a farmer's inheritance tax.

Naturally big government works out the most efficient way to extract the last drop of blood from its victims. The more successful and industrious a farmer may be, the more he is penalized. The indolent or incompetent neighbor down the road with his broken fences, unpainted buildings and scrub stock gets off lightly, even though his land has the same potential. It's the good farmer, who contributes most to the community who takes the biggest licking.

It's a wonder that farmers have any incentive left to strive for better things.

Society and sects

CANADIANS showing concern with our handling of the Doukhobour issue are not alone with their misgivings.

It may afford some small comfort to hear that our tentative solutions are the same as those applied elsewhere, for Canada isn't the only country faced with difficulties arising from religious sects whose beliefs run contrary to those of the rest of society.

The United States has just tackled the education problem with a sect of Amish farmers in Ohio in much the same way as British Columbia faced up to the Doukhobour issue. Regardless of religious compulsions, the Amish parents were ordered by law to permit their children to be educated in the public schools. And last month three Amish couples were haled into court before Judge Donald Young on contempt charges for failing to obey the court order.

As this continent becomes more populated and our society more complicated, these confusions between the sects and society as a whole are bound to increase. The situation is all the more unfortunate in that society has no real bone to pick with these people, who for the most part, are reticent, hard-working and pious. It is lamentable that our traditions and rules of individual freedom don't contain a clause to cover such differences without forcing decisions which, in a way, amount to a reproach to our free system itself.

It may be argued that a child's freedom

of opportunity is being encroached upon by parents who forbid schooling, just as much as by society which demands it. But society feels that an educated child has a wider background of knowledge and is given every opportunity to make a mature choice of its way of life in the future.

For many Canadians who are searching for words to explain society's attitude, perhaps Judge Young's comments to the Amish sect may give some help. In explaining to the religious sect why he was overriding their religious beliefs to deal with their children's education, he said: "I cannot indulge in religious argument. Religious convictions do not stand up against an order of this court. We must render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's. And today we are dealing with Caesar."

Spotlight on facts

THE ROYAL COMMISSION on price spreads hits its stride on the prairies this month . . . in answer to farmer demands for more facts on the cost-price squeeze.

Dr. Andrew Stewart and his six colleagues must wade through mountains of facts (and probably some fable) relating to the cost of farm goods to the consumer and the return to the farmer. It is hoped they keep in mind that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has particularly underlined a request that the Commission stick to the problem of the farmer in the form in which they were raised. The answers will speak for themselves.

It's not been unknown for Commissions and other "neutral" investigating groups to assume that those calling for the inquiry wanted something other than the true facts; that they merely wanted a Commission to dig up "facts" to support their loaded questions, and to back up particular propaganda.

To offset this possibility, commissions may be tempted to take an opposing stand from the start, and to accept briefs as though a form of defence. Their attitude could take the form of "We're from Missouri; now go ahead and defend your case while we dig up facts to refute it."

Far be it from us to even suggest that Dr. Stewart and his Commission would carry out their investigation with such a consciously slanted approach. But before they have completed their sittings there will be plenty of red herrings dragged across the trail, and in underlining its point the Federation implied that the Commission need not divert its energies to answering questions not posed by farmers.

The investigations are of little use if they deal only with problems raised by sections of the economy that are already fattening at the farmers' expense. The farmers of this country can not make it too clear that the investigation should be limited to the problems posed by themselves and no one else, and considered in the form in which they were raised by the farmers.

Canadian agriculture has no ulterior motive and nothing to hide. It is absolutely sure of its case. All the farmers want are the facts made public.

Migration

THAT well-known song, "How you goin' to keep 'em down on the farm?" is not really very old, but the question it poses is as old as civilization itself. In varying degrees since the earliest times the shift from the land has been steady, and it continues today.

Since 1951, in Canada alone, the farm population has dropped by 165,000. Back in 1941 farmers constituted 27.4% of the nation's population, but by last year this percentage had dropped to only 17.1%.

Yet there is too great a tendency to read these figures with despondency and to weep and wail that farmers are going broke and being pushed off their farms in droves. There is also some suggestion that farmers heading for the cities are abandoning their land to desolation. The appearance of deserted farm buildings along all prairie highways would seem at least to confirm this sorry state of affairs.

Not necessarily so! The situation is not all negative. The farmers are being ATTRACTED to the city industries just as much as they are being DISCOURAGED from farming. They may be advancing to bigger opportunities. The "deserted" farms are not necessarily being abandoned by bankrupts. They are just as likely the result of a good sale on the part of a farmer who was offered a fat price for his property. Nor is the land to be idle. Generally what has happened is that a neighbor has expanded to a more efficient size and since he cannot live in two houses at once, one is left idle or used for storage.

Population figures do, however, indicate something . . . and that is the obvious fact that there has been a post-war revolution in Canadian agriculture. Since 1951 Canadian farmers have not only overcome the problems of a labour shortage on the land, but actually managed to produce the greatest overall agriculture product in the nation's history with 165,000 less people to do it. This, more than anything, indicates the postwar achievements in scientific agriculture and mechanization, and the general overall achievements in farm efficiency.

Of course, the coin does have another and unfortunate side. A decreasing farm population in relation to the overall Canadian population whittles down the amount of influence that can be exerted by farmers on the nation's affairs. The farmers' viewpoints may be overlooked. Yet fewer farmers unite more easily, and greater co-operation among smaller numbers may in the long run result in increased pressure on the rest of the economy . . . especially in the field of marketing.

It is also unfortunate that so many people are abandoning the way of life on the farm. Perhaps we are being more romantic than realistic, but there is something of a wonderful steadying influence about the thousands of farmers who keep their stability in a changing society. Living, working and playing in their isolated communities they look to their own efforts for so much of their success.

The spirit of independence and initiative is too easily destroyed in the big cities.

Farmers advising the government



When the Agricultural Stabilization Act rolls into high gear, this government board and advisory committee of farmers will guide its direction. The act is designed to establish a system of flexible guaranteed prices for agricultural commodities based on a ten-year moving average formula. Nine key commodities are guaranteed a minimum of 80% of the base price . . . cattle, hogs, sheep, butter, cheese, eggs, and wheat, oats and barley except in the Wheat Board areas.

(Seated, l. to r.) — J. L. Dewar, P.E.I.; D. J. McKinnon, Alberta; F. E. Lutes, New Brunswick; V. E. Ellison, B.C.; L. W. Pearsall, Chairman of the Board; Hon. Douglas S. Harkness, Minister of Agriculture; A. H. Turner, Vice-Chairman; O. A. Turnbull, Saskatchewan; J. B. Lemoine, Quebec; R. Ferron, Quebec; and G. A. McCague, Ont.
(Standing, l. to r.) — A. M. Shaw, special advisor; S. J. Chagnon, F. F. Baird, Supervisor of Commodity Programs.

A little wheat— —a little chaff

by Ivan Helmer

It's only natural that women like a secret — it gives them something to talk about.

Agitation for the 30-hour week has begun in some quarters. But John Slavin, a Briton, would scoff at such hours. John Slavin, you see, is a bit of a genius.

Recently, in court at the age of 61, he was told to "buckle down to work" — after his prison term.

Police said Slavin had 27 convictions for stealing, and 56 for begging, and they have no record of his having had any job since he got out of the army in the First World War.

This is certainly a mixed-up world. It has got to the place, at times, when it can be a public disgrace for a woman not to have some babies. A western woman was stiffly fined for collecting baby bonuses when she didn't have any children to collect for. The moral of this story must be; don't collect for your chickens before they are hatched.

Love is blind is an old saying. People who are always exclaiming, "Well, what did she see in him," or, "What did he see in her," can take part of their answer from an announcement that more than one half of the people in North America have pronounced vision defects.

A gent is supposed to have been in the habit of going into his small town beer-parlor every day and ordering two glasses of beer. Each time he drank

one and poured the other into the pocket of his mackinaw coat.

This finally got on the waiter's nerves and one day he blurted out: "Say, what's the idea wasting all that beer!"

"That happens to be my business," said the customer, "and if you want to make anything out of it, step outside!" With that a white mouse stuck its head belligerently out of the pocket and snarled: "And that goes for your cat, too!"

Very few people object to work — they just don't like doing it themselves.

We heard about a young farmer who said, with some exasperation, to his wife: "How come you're always tired and overworked! MY mother raised eight of us, had a big garden, kept a bunch of chickens, did the milking most of the time, helped the old man with the butchering, cooked for stookers and threshers, churned, baked and split wood for the kitchen stove; she taught Sunday school, looked after sick neighbors, did the washing by hand, and had time to read us bedtime stories while resting before getting at the supper dishes!"

The chief reason most of us "can't take money with us when we go" is because we haven't got it.

Science threatens to take the fun out of everything. Some Ontario government departments are replacing stenographers by tape-recorders. More efficient perhaps, but hardly as scenic, as companionable, or as cosy on a lap.

The Turks are said to have a saying: One drink makes you a playful gazelle; two, a dashing zebra; three, a roaring lion; and the fourth makes you a silly jackass again.

In real life men don't LAUGH at their wives' new hats — they're too apprehensive of the cost.

If the Russian war-hand can be held in check long enough there seems little doubt that western ways will whittle Russia down to our size. Khrushchev (the No. 1 Russian at the time of going to press) has warned the proletariat against the hard drinking habits of the west. There is too much of it in Russia, he said, and offenders will have to be punished.

A Moscow paper complains that rock'n'roll is knocking pure Russian music off the stages. Worse, it adds, some critics are actually encouraging such "bourgeois influences" into the Soviet way of life.

From Prague comes an alarming report that chewing gum will be restored to the children. Long denounced as a part of "American decadence" it is being restored to "stop children from chewing the soles of shoes, candies and other important items."

And finally, Africa's Zulu tribesmen (noted for their feathers and war-paint) have been warned by leaders against wearing "stupid American-type clothing." The council has urged a ban on blue-jeans and other "unsavory" forms of dress for teenagers.

A farmer boasted to a neighbor that in 30 years he had never lost money in feeding cattle, but he admitted "there have been years when I've had some pretty high-priced manure."

A good pedigree is only a record of the past — but no one can live in the past.

An island off the South China coast has asked U.S. charity outfits to stop sending cheese. Chinese women, unfamiliar with the product, authorities said, decided it was yellow soap and used it to scrub clothes — not very successfully.

The championship, for 1957, of the Burlington Liar's Club went to a farmer who told of a field that was so long that the man farming it went out in the spring with a tractor, plow and drill, and when he got to the other end of the field he traded in the equipment on a combine and harvested on the way home.

Another farmer claimed that a frog got in a pail of milk he had set down and when he got back the frog had threshed around so much that he was sitting on three pounds of butter.

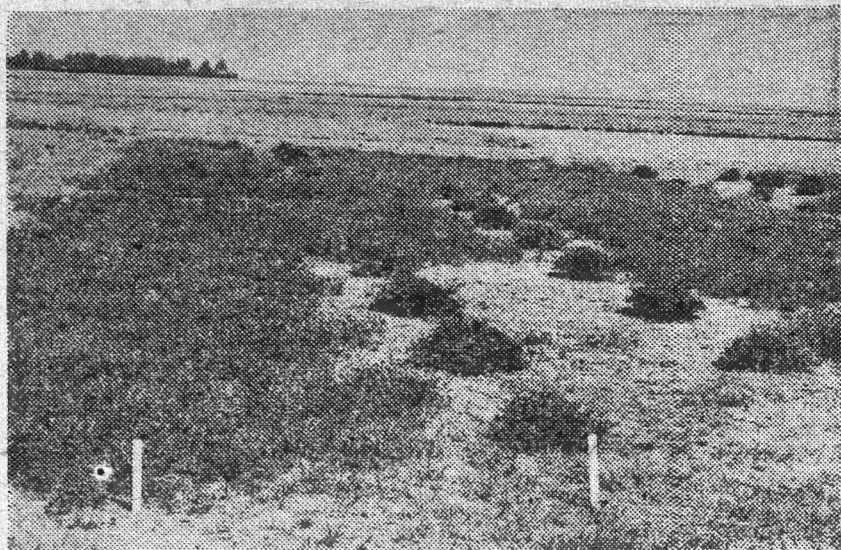
They say a man is middle-aged when he no longer cares where his wife goes just as long as he doesn't have to go with her.

Probably no comment should be made on a news item which states that a young mother of Sardinia gave birth recently to quadruplet boys.

An example of the different viewpoints people have is obtained from the lead article in a London trade paper, titled: 1958 — YEAR OF PROMISE. The publication was the Funeral Service Journal, the official magazine of British undertakers.

Too many car drivers insist on having their rites.

The revolution of the town car driver may yet come off. In Sydney, Australia, fed up office workers recently started parking bumper to bumper on the streets, so close that police couldn't get at the cars for impounding.



D.E.F. Photo, Swift Current.
Test plots planted to creeping-rooted and conventional alfalfa plants. The difference between the creeping-rooted variety on the left and the non-creeping variety on the right is quite obvious. The crop was planted in 1952, and the photograph taken in 1956.

Rambler alfalfa is "spreading"

RAMBLER—the creepy-rooted, winter-hardy alfalfa—is able to persist in the pastures where other alfalfa are dying out, states Dr. Dave Heinrichs, forage crop director at the Swift Current Experimental Farm.

Rambler is modern. It expands its operation and it has gone underground for protection. The roots of other alfalfas are on the surface and so are more subject to injury from heavy grazing. If Rambler does suffer surface injury it has other roots, and generally an abundance of side shoots to carry on the family tradition. About 65 per cent of Rambler plants are creeping-rooted.

This alfalfa is said to be adapted to the tough prairie conditions, particularly of Saskatchewan. It is very winter-hardy and drouth-resistant. In several tests, varieties such as

Ladak and Grim have killed out while Rambler has flourished.

It is believed that Rambler is less likely to cause bloat in pasturing cattle than other types. It recovers slowly after grazing, crowning at about the same rate as grass in a pasture. Thus cattle, when put back on it, are able to graze a grass with the alfalfa. Other alfalfas recover much more quickly after grazing and at first the plants grow taller than the grass. Cattle going back on it get a feed of almost straight alfalfa and may bloat.

The development of Rambler alfalfa began in 1938 when Dr. S. E. Clarke, then of the experimental farm, and Dr. J. L. Bolton, now head of the Forage Crops Laboratory in Saskatoon, selected a few plants of Ladak and Siberian alfalfa which had survived several years of intensive drouth. Since then 20

years' work in selecting, breeding, testing and increasing Rambler has been put in on the project at the Swift Current experimental farm.

The initial researchers noted that some of the drouth-resistant plants had creeping roots, and it was decided to include this characteristic in the new alfalfa they were developing. Plants were selected and crossed with others, the resulting seed planted and further selections made to bring together the good points of each variety.

In 1946 when Dr. Heinrichs took over the work, 10,000 plants were developed. Over the next few years Dr. Heinrichs selected, rejected and selected plants until only 7 remained. These 7 plants were allowed to inter-cross. Their seed became

further experiments with Rambler are being made at State Experiment Stations in Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Utah. In a Kansas test one three-year-old plant of this type had 48 crowns spread over an area five feet square.

Researchers think spreading alfalfa may be in the answer in parts of the country where rodents often cut a plant's vital taproot, and they think it may help replenish stands that have been thinned by unfavorable climatic and disease conditions.

U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists say, that from this development, growers may some day be able to plant high producing strains that spread out from a "mother" plant to form "little families".



Plant Industry Branch Director, R. E. McKenzie, examines California-grown Rambler alfalfa seed on its arrival at Saskatchewan Government Seed Plant, Moose Jaw.

Seed shown in background is part of a large shipment produced under contract by the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture. To speed up multiplication, 125 pounds of Foundation seed was planted on 160 acres in the San Joaquin Valley in February, 1957, and eight months later 52,000 pounds harvested.

the new variety — Rambler. In 1955, Rambler was licensed for sale in Canada and included in the Canadian Forage Seed Project.

This year the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture is expected to release some 60,000 pounds of Rambler seed under the Forage Crops Program.

Rambler is a tall, straight alfalfa, resembling Ladak. Its flower assortment is quite varied, some being white and the others running from greenish yellow to blue, with yellow predominating. In dry areas it is said to often out-yield other varieties in a hay field by a wide margin. Rambler's slow recovery prevents it from being the best producing alfalfa in higher rainfall districts, and under irrigation. But it is never far from the top.

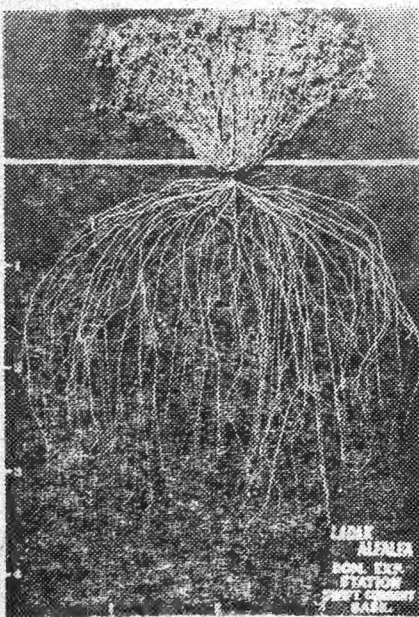
This valuable contribution from the Swift Current Experimental Farm is creating widespread interest outside Canada. In the United States tests and

More money for Manitoba research

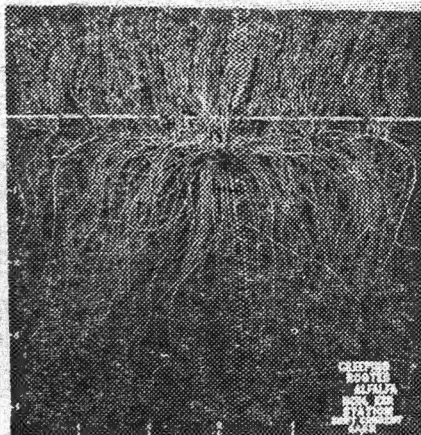
THE Manitoba Agriculture Department will increase its economic research by \$100,000, will double its bursaries for graduate training, and will set up a \$50,000 revolving fund for loans to community seed cleaning plants, according to the Manitoba government's estimates of expenditures tabled Friday afternoon (February 28).

In addition the department will spend \$55,000 to construct research facilities for sample testing of hybrid chicks and tobacco drying.

In all, departmental expenditures will be almost 20 per cent higher than they were last year (\$2,139,480 as against \$1,792,925). Apart from some \$184,640 devoted to the soils and crops branch, the department will spend another \$215,000 (plus \$275,000 from the federal government to total \$490,000) on soil erosion and water control.



D.E.F. Photo, Swift Current.
Ladak alfalfa as shown in this plant has the single large root.



D.E.F. Photo, Swift Current.
By contrast, the creeping-rooted type of alfalfa has many smaller roots which continue to spread and may grow independently of one another. This particular strain was developed at the Swift Current Experimental Farm, and is now gaining recognition around the world. Seed is still in demand.



PRESIDENT-ELECT OF A.I.C.

R. R. (Ralph) Campbell, head of Dept. of Agric. Economics at the Ontario Agricultural College, has been acclaimed President-elect of the Agricultural Institute of Canada. After serving in this Office for a year, he will become President of the 3,000-member organization in 1959.

As well as having a sound, early background in agriculture, Mr. Campbell has a splendid airforce record from World War Two and was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship while attending the University of Toronto from 1946-49.

Farm pastures require care

SSMALL pastures on mixed farms in southwestern Saskatchewan are the most misused and neglected part of the farm. This is the opinion of the Swift Current Experimental Farm which goes on to say: "Usually they are overstocked, badly over-grazed, weedy, and do not come close to providing an adequate ration for the animals.

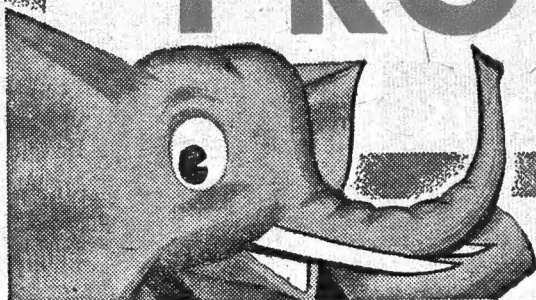
Management which would have prevented pasture ruination is much easier to implement than are the steps required to repair a ruined pasture. In fact, the repair of such a pasture involves nothing short of breaking, working down and reseeding to cultivated grasses and legumes.

Since most pastures will be grazed continuously throughout the season a good general guide to pasture size is: if the pasture is native grass, 15 acres for each animal should be allowed, 8 acres of cultivated grass is required, and if it is cultivated grass with alfalfa, 5 acres per head should be sufficient.

At the above recommended stocking rate the animals will be unable to utilize all the forage produced, but a 40 per cent carry-over of unused fodder is necessary to maintain a pasture in good condition.

The subject of pastures and their management is too great for proper discussion here, but it is important for the farmer to recognize the poor condition of his pasture, to make definite plans, and if necessary seek advice, to remedy the problem.

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Less the fixed production costs (\$16 per acre)		\$1,600
NET PROFIT		\$ 800

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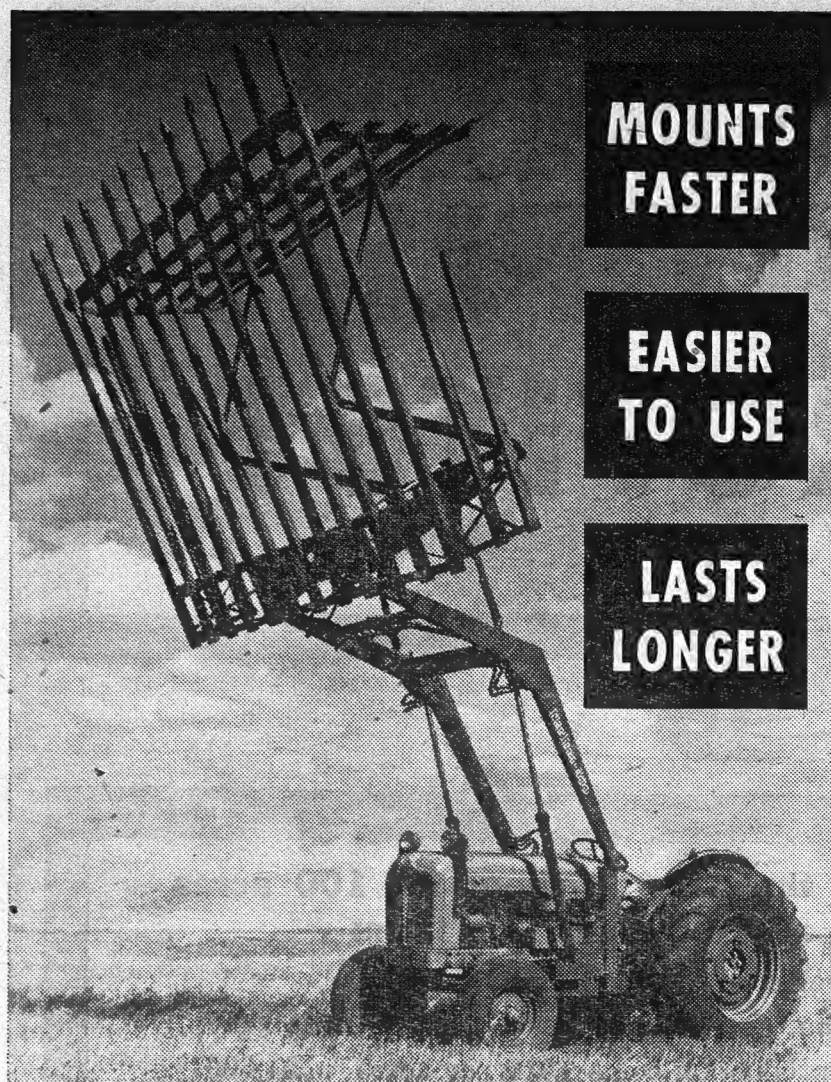
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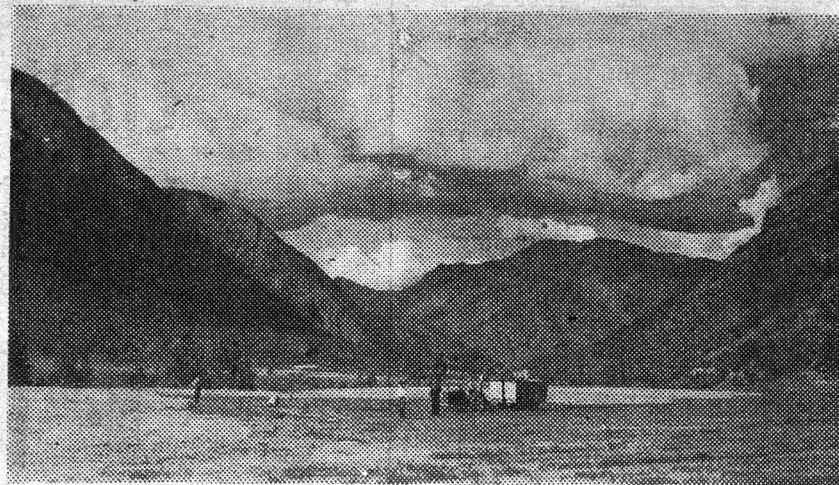
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B.C. Electric Photo.

High above the Fraser River, near Lillooet, B.C., Riverbend Irrigated Farms is transforming acres of parched sagebrush benchland into lush, green hayfields.

Water for B. C. benchlands

BRITISH COLUMBIA has thousands of acres of fertile uncultivated land, which lacks only one thing—water.

And B.C. has an abundance of water—the catch is in bringing the two together.

The B.C. Electric Company is carrying out an interesting experiment with this problem at Lillooet, on benchland 350 feet above the wild Fraser River.

The project is called the Riverland project, and water is being pumped from the Fraser to what was formerly a bone-dry sagebrush bench. Since the beginning of the project in the spring of 1956, a little over 200 acres has been turned into highly productive forage crop land. Fifty head of Hereford feeders bought as calves late in 1956 have gone into top retail meat trade as well finished beef.

More important, the people behind the Riverbend idea feel, is the experience being gained in raising water from the surging Fraser below. And they feel that if irrigation can be successfully carried out by pumping operations, a good agricultural value will be placed on a lot of dry land now of little worth.

As in most new operations there have been disappointments and setbacks. The first seeding was of Orchard grass and Ladino clover, with Alta fescue and brome added on some sections of the farm. It is a mixture that has given excellent results in the interior of British Columbia.

At Riverland last winter there was practically no snow cover, causing considerable winter kill, and a goodly amount of reseeding in 1957. No matter how unusual a winter the winter of 1957 may have been, it was a clear demonstration that on this type of land the matter of winter hardiness is a most important consideration.

When reseeding was carried out last spring, alfalfa replaced killed-out clover and grass mixture. The results were a joy to the Riverland people.

Using a forage harvester, two cuttings of the new crop were used for silage, and a foot of growth was left to catch snow for winter protection.

On some of the land an attempt was made to introduce alfalfa into the stand (mainly brome) which had survived. This was not a success. A fair



B.C. Electric Photo.

Irrigation water is the life blood for Highland acres. Electric pumps hoist water from the rushing Fraser, 350 feet below, to produce forage that supports an intensive cattle operation.

amount of production was obtained, but nothing to compare with the results where a complete reseeding job had been done.

During last summer over 1,000 tons of silage was built up. This choice feed along with purchased grain, will put growth and finish on the cattle being fed on the place now; 50 head of yearlings running about 800 pounds at the start, followed by 200 steer calves on a longer feeding and growing program.

The total was to be around 400 head going into winter, with full use being made of fall grazing to save on stored feed.

"Riverland irrigation is not intended as a ranching operation," points out its director, Ralph Gram. "It fits," he says, "in between the rancher and his market — a market that now insists on well finished beef. It takes a lot of good feed including grain, to produce that kind of beef. There are many thousands of acres in British Colum-

bia almost next door to the lower-mainland's growing population that fit into this picture."

In the part of the drybelt that is served by B.C. Electric alone there is something like 25,000 acres of dry land that can be farmed intensively to supplement the ranges. But a lot of it can only be made productive by pumping water for irrigation. There is no other source for irrigation.

Riverland Irrigated Farms is working out the problems both from the engineering and agricultural angles.

It is hoped that the knowledge and experience gained from their operation will help put many potentially valuable acres of B.C. drylands into use.

The sponsors of the venture believe that a great deal can be added to the economy of the province if all of the irrigable land in the drybelt can be brought to full production capacity.



The latch-string is always out at the Hays' farms. This splendid invitation and three-lined approach made the Harry Hays' farm a landmark on Calgary's Southern limits. (The city has now crept out into the country and turned the dairyland into real estate, while some of the Hays' operations have moved to the High River District.)

Is your farm a landmark? Does it stand out? A little paint and imagination will reflect the pride you take in your own operation. Dress it up.

New beef grades

A REVISION in national beef grades has become effective in Canada. This grade revision splits the old grade C, or Commercial, into two grades; Standard and Commercial. The ribbon brand mark for Standard is brown. This Standard grade will consist of beef as young as Choice and Good grades, fairly well fleshed with lean meat, and less fatty than Good. Standard may be slightly less tender than Good, but it will also be less wasteful in cooking than the two top grades.

Chance to meet the "Cisco Kid"

PANCHO — the laughing pal of the "Cisco Kid" who made such a hit with one-and-all last year at the Calgary Stampede must have recommended his Canadian treatment highly. The "Cisco Kid" himself is coming to the Stampede this year

and bringing his famous horse "Diablo" with him. Duncan Renaldo, the "Cisco Kid", in real life has accepted the invitation to be this year's guest of honor and will be on hand the entire Stampede week, July 7th to 12th. He plans to do a special show for the kiddies Friday morning, to ride in the Stampede parade, Monday morning, and to appear at all performances of the show in the Stampede Corral during the last four days of the week.

Canadians great talkers

CANADIAN must be more gabby than they think. Telephone statistics state that we talk more than any other people on the phone—480.7 conversations to the person a year, compared to our runner's-up, U.S. citizens, with an average of 425.7 conversations each — and we rank behind both the United States and Sweden in the number of phones per capita.

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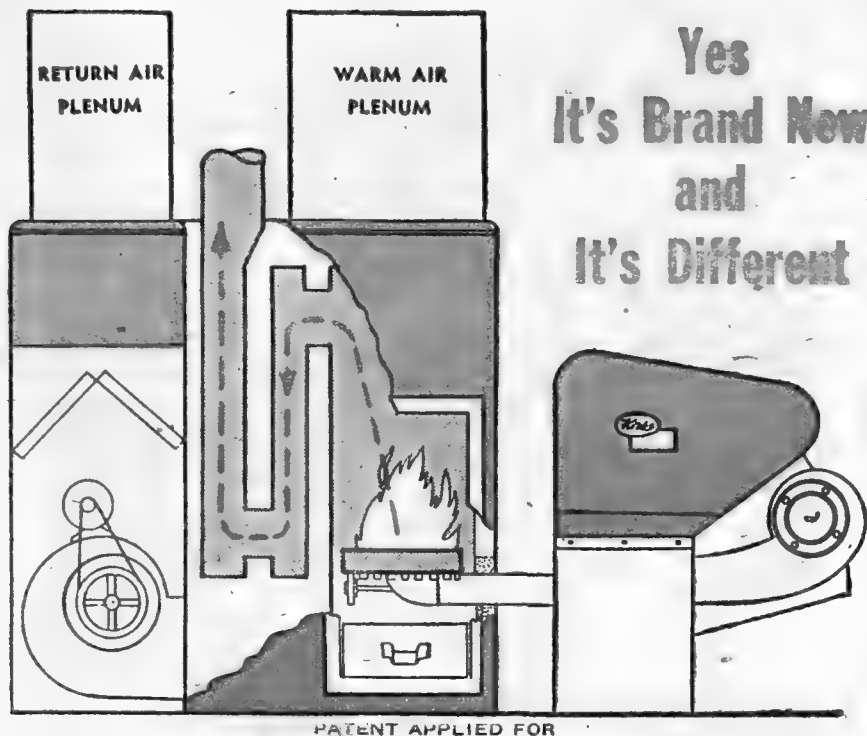
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This 300-acre field of Oriental Mustard grew in the Lethbridge area of Alberta last year, and it yielded a healthy 1,600 pounds of seed per acre.

Look before leaping into mustard growing

DUE to the interest created in the production of commercial mustard seed in Southern Alberta during the last few years, and the natural desire of growers to get into more readily cash-saleable crops many farmers will be interested in knowing more about the possibilities (and problems) of raising mustard seed.

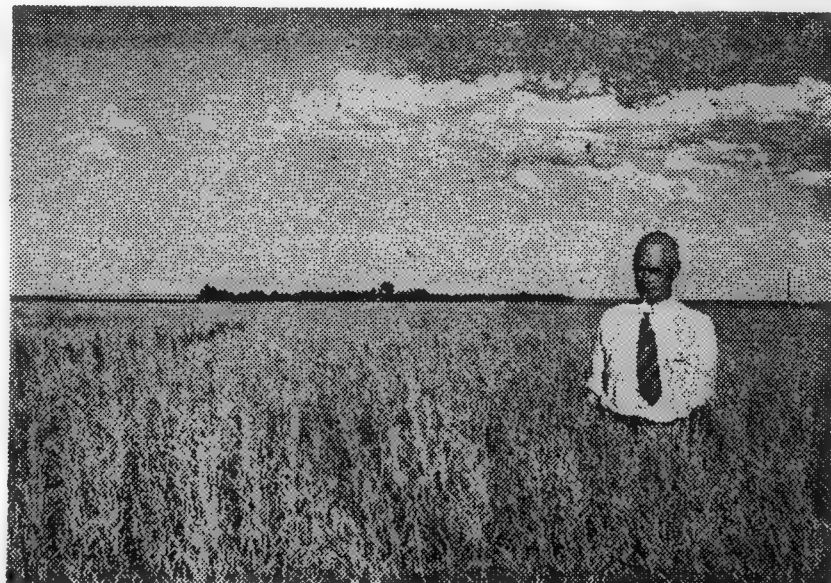
From a contracted 100 acres on two farms in the Warner district in 1936 the acreage of mustard in Southern Alberta has grown to 138,000 acres in 1957. And the value of the crop this past year was \$8,000,000.00.

Until the last few years the bulk of this continent's mustard seed was grown in California, Washington and Montana. Today about 90% of the total is grown on the Alberta side.

W. H. Hay, Cerealist at the Lethbridge Experimental Farm, has this to say: "An individual farmer intending to grow mustard independently must be fa-

miliar with the necessary cultural operations. He should have access to excellent facilities for the proper cleaning and grading of the crop. He should also know quite a lot about the markets for mustard and have contracts with companies buying it. Practically all mustard is grown on a contract basis. When mustard is grown this way the problems of cleaning and selling, which are real problems for the individual, become the problems of the contracting companies. In a year of high production the independent grower might find himself without a market. In the spring of the year various companies endeavor to estimate as nearly as possible what the market requirements are likely to be in the fall, and thus estimate the acreage for which they are willing to contract.

As with other crops nature has a way of coming up frequently with more generous crops and disappointments are



Standing over waist-deep in a good stand of Oriental Mustard that was grown in the Foremost, Alberta, area last summer.

likely to be in store for both grower and buyer if there is any serious surplus."

There are three varieties of mustard: Yellow, Brown, and Oriental; the former used chiefly in the preparation of table mustard, mustard pickles and so forth, while the latter are used in the production of salad and mustard oils. Although Yellow mustard yields lower per acre than the others, the net return to growers has been about the same, due to price. 500 lbs. is about an average yield for Yellow mustard, and about 700 lbs. to the acre of Brown and Oriental.

The price, the last few years, has been five cents a pound for Yellow and three cents for Brown and Oriental.

There are good reasons why the Lethbridge area has become the "biggest mustard producing area in the world." Soil and climate are suitable. In the States the trend has been for mustard growing to shift from expensive land, and since wheat is higher in price in the U.S. the tendency has been a further shift from Montana to Alberta. Mustard is a crop which grain farmers like as it can be handled with the standard drill and combine. Diseases and insect pests are not a serious problem and commercial mustards do not become troublesome as weeds. They are easily controlled by summer-fallow or with sprays.

A crop which has been grown quite successfully in the northern parts of the prairie provinces, Black Argentine Rape, is a crop very similar to mustard and handled much the same. For this reason many farmers have conceived the idea of growing both crops.

The danger in this, Mr. Hay points out, is that where mustard and rape are grown on the same farm, handled through the same cleaning plant, etc., some mixing of seed is inevitable. A system of grading of commercial mustard was set up in Canada in 1947. So far crops have been able to meet the standard requirements without trouble. But difficulty can be expected in the future if rapeseed is allowed to contaminate the mustard crop.

Grasshopper forecast

A GRASSHOPPER map forecasting effected areas was put out this year by the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, the first time since 1951 that an outbreak of grasshoppers has been serious enough to warrant a map.

The map shows 663,000 acres of improved land in severe infestation category, 2 million acres in a moderate category, and 6 million acres in a light category.

In the past forecast maps have proved fairly accurate, although spring weather can effect the extent of an outbreak; a wet spring can decrease crop losses, while a dry spring works all in favor of the grasshoppers.

Ear tagging milk cows

IT is easier to make mother-daughter comparisons if a system of ear-tagging, or tattooing is used. The relationship can then be readily identified, so that when heifers are brought into the milking line, their records can be compared with those of their dams.

4-H Clubs growing

THE Canadian 4-H Clubs began their second quarter of a century this year with a total membership of 73,483 farm boys and girls. There are 5,092 clubs in Canada, and for the first time in their history the girl members outnumbered the boys: 36,908 girls and 36,575 boys.

New race barns at Calgary

TWO new modern type summer race barns are being built by the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, to be ready by May 1st. The barns will have a total of 104 stalls and 16 tack rooms, and each will have a 12-foot-wide breezeway for cover while walking horses.

Calgary Bull Sale

IF Calgary's spring bull sale is any indication, western stockmen can look forward to good markets throughout the current season.

When the 58th annual sale ended, March 21st, all three beef breeds — Hereford, Shorthorn and Angus — had

shown substantial boosts in price averages. When the returns for the three breeds were in, 711 bulls had gone on the block for well over half a million dollars.

Even in the Shorthorn sale, where bidding was not quite as spirited as in the other breeds, 171 head brought a total of \$73,805 for an average of \$610. This was a hike of \$152 over the 1952 Shorthorn sale average.

One of the big reasons for the competitive bidding was the strong demand from South of the border, with a high percentage of animals going to the United States. Maurice Hartnett, General Manager of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, said that the prices at the Calgary sale would set the pattern for the rest of Canada. There is plenty of talk of recession in other industries, but the cattle business in Alberta and the West in general is flourishing.

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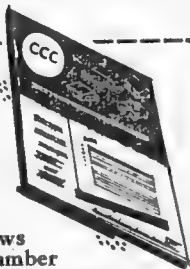
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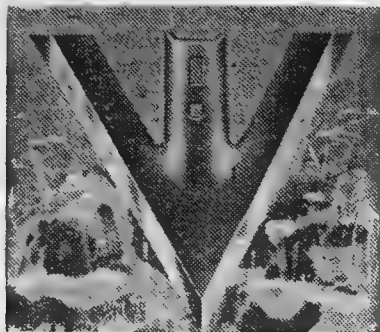
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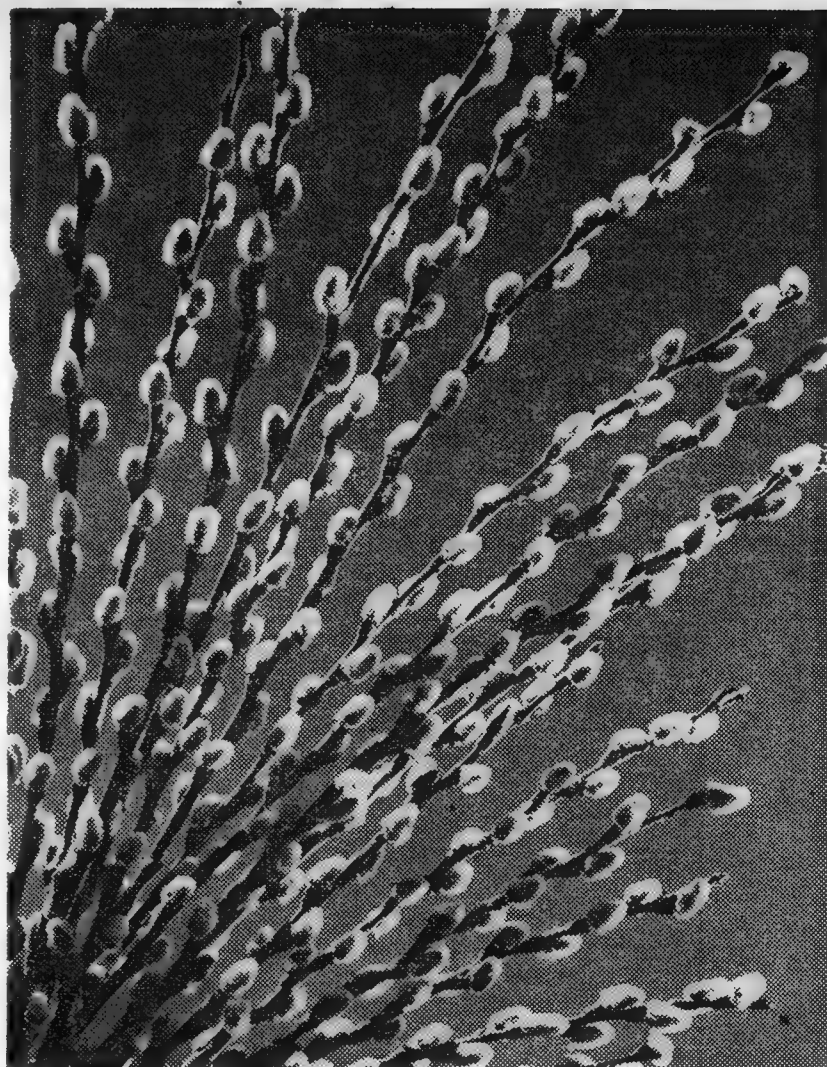
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Willow-time is spring-time in the West, when youngsters scour the banks of creeks and ponds to carry home an armfull of pussy-willows.

April is willow time

by Kerry Wood

IN my calendar, April is willow time. Suddenly the snows are gone and every hollow filled with water, in which lads wade with knee-high boots that are never quite high enough to keep out all the wet stuff. They oblige a simpering miss of pigtail age and slosh over to the nearest

willow bush, plucking for her a bouquet of pussywillows. She wants to carry them home to mother, to take next morning to a teacher, perhaps to present to grandparents or a favorite neighbor. Small boys scorn to give such a sissy present to a teacher, but they don't mind

carrying home a few gracefully decorated branches and handing over to Mom.

Boys of a larger size seek the smooth-barked osier willows, pale green and plentiful on banks of creeks and rivers. They cast appraising eyes at the stalks, selecting a branchless length of thumb's thickness. Tin-bladed jack knives from the five-and-ten hack through the soft wood. When the chosen branch is cut, then a boy heaves mightily with a knife to make a one-sweep angle cut across the very end. After this has been accomplished, he measures with two fingers down from the tip of the angle, and on the opposite sidemakes a lesser angle cut and a straight across sawing to scalp out bark and yellow wood and all. Now comes an easier chore, skivving a ring through bark an inch below. When the bark cut is done, a young face screws tight in determination as the boy grasps the doctored end of the willow with a good right hand and twists. If sap is high, the bark slips easily and the boy may complete the whistle in a moment's time, blowing it loudly all the way home from school.

April was also willow time for another reason when ice went out of the creek that wound a course all around our town's valley. We raided osier stands and cut the slimmest, tallest poles, then used a yard-long length of brass wire to twist around the slender end of the rod and let the looped noose dangle down,

Thus equipped, along the creek banks we hurried, peering into every pool and heading for favorite spots below the high-piled beaver dams. Soon or late we'd find a spawning school of suckers. Then a pole was edged out over the water, gently and slowly so that the fish would not take fright. The brass loop was lowered into the transparent water, and we tried to guide that loop over the head of the largest sucker in sight. If and when we got the snare in place, a mighty heave upwards and back brought the fish out and left it thrashing in the underbrush somewhere behind. We pounced on it with savage exultation, yelling our loudest as we held it up for companions to admire. When we had a "mess", we lit a fire on a gravel bar, wrapped the cleaned fish in sticky clay, put them in the hottest coals and waited — most impatiently! — for our fish-feed.

Later still, April was willow time for yet another reason. Here was the winding creek, yonder at its mouth was the blue-water river that sang a merry song as it flowed, hundreds of miles across Alberta to join the South Saskatchewan at the border of our sister province, then on east and north and east into Manitoba and eventually Lake Winnipeg and finally Hudson Bay. What an intriguing avenue of adventure!

So we invaded the osier willows once again, selecting the straightest for canoe ribs. We

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lashed the longest together to make gunwale frames and chose a curved pair to serve as prow and stern. The finished craft was anything but graceful, but it floated high and dry — thanks to a bargain buy of two quarts of waterproof paint which later peeled off in sheets! We never quite got to Hudson Bay, let alone Lake Winnipeg or even to our neighboring province of Saskatchewan, but that first canoe explored the town stretch of creek with a thoroughness never equalled before or since. We waited until the river's flood subsided, then cruised on it to find fishing holes where gold-eyes, pike, and pickerel were willing to come flopping onto the flimsy floor of our craft. That canoe carried pup-tent and blankets, box-camera and grub a score of miles up and down the stream from home.

All hail the wonderful willow, which permitted canoe construction and put us in the same class as David Thompson, Mackenzie, and Simon Fraser. Fellow adventurers all!

Time aged and rotted that flimsy craft, and time also made a difference to our own regard for April and willows. We began exploring for diamond willow, that twisty, pitted, and loveliest of hobby woods peculiar to Western Canada.

It could be found during autumn when leaves were gone, while nothing prevented us cutting a knobbly length of it during the snowy winter. But when April came, suddenly we realized that spring was here and sap was rising and soon there'd be leaves to obscure the search. So our hobby gang rushed to slough side and lake shore, to creek bank and along the same river that once floated the willow-framed canoe. We explored every thicket and looked for diamonds, said to be caused by a canker disease—though I think the diamond depression forms behind every branch or twig that dies and atrophies.

We searched for slim stalks for making walking sticks and gavel handles, thick ones for lamps and table legs, medium-sized pieces for making useless candle-sticks — though these proved helpful when a sleet storm caused a power failure!

We carried back home loads of willow, diamond pitted and gnarled, storing it in basement bins to await an evening when rain, or late snow, or something prevented gardening, or fishing, or visiting, or reading, or whatever was planned for that particular night. Then down to the bench, remove the gray bark, gouge out the diamond hollows, and finally use sandpaper to polish the colorful wood into a lamp, a chairman's gavel, or a candle-stick against the time of the next power failure.

This new April, willows take on yet another meaning. I've got a hundred laurel leafed ones coming from a nursery, another hundred cuttings spudded into the garden since last spring and rooted ready to plant and make a slightly willow hedge on the farm. Meanwhile, our daughters gather pussy-willows and a young son whittles a whistle and wonders if a willow bow would shoot as far as Robin Hood's yew!

"Coffee-break" good for dairymen

IT'S AN ILL-WIND that blows no good.

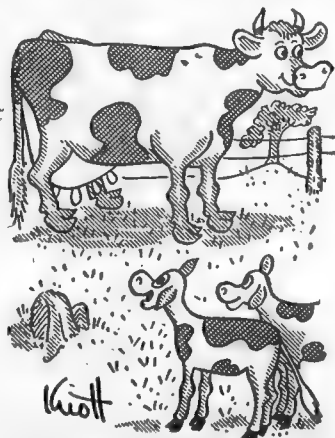
It is estimated that the coffee-break (cursed by many city employers of late) and ordinary coffee times for the Canadian consumer provide an annual market for \$20 million worth of milk and cream. The figures for tea drinkers are not at hand, but it, too, must be considerable. It is reckoned coffee drinkers are one of the largest absorbers of butterfat, through milk and cream; 20% more being used than is used in the ice-cream industry, and 66% of the amount used by the cheese industry.

Then, of course, there's the sugar consumption.

For those who like figures about 9 billion cups of coffee are drunk in Canada each year (99% with milk or cream). The total dairy products consumed include 12 million gallons of milk, 7½ million gallons of cream, and an equal amount of evaporated and condensed milk.

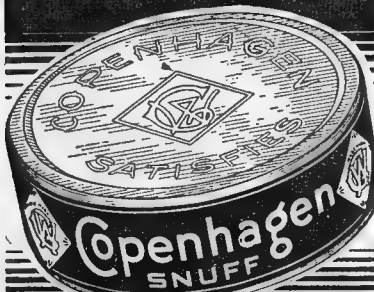
Sausage sales up

THE estimated 1956 production of sausage in Canada amounted to 268,000,000 pounds, an increase of 335% since 1936.



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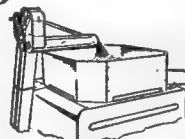


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I OWN A _____ COMBINE.

ALTHOUGH Brahman cross-bred cattle (i.e., progeny of Brahman crossed with British beef breeds) have performed reasonably well under Canadian range conditions in studies at the Manyberries Range Station, in southern Alberta, further testing must be done before their general use can be recommended. H. F. Peters, Superintendent of the Manyberries Station, says the cross-breds raised in these experiments represent

Beef production with the Brahman cross

only a very small sample of the Brahman race.

Cross-breds produced at Manyberries were the offspring of three Brahman bulls imported from California and bred to Hereford, Angus and Shorthorn

cows. Females resulting from these crosses were retained and bred to Hereford bulls, and grade Herefords were kept for comparison with cross-breds. The present evaluation of the Brahman cross is based on the

breeds was obtained in the Manyberries studies. In some tests in the United States, Brahman cross-bred cattle have gained less per day in the feedlot than Hereford cattle. When raised under conditions prevailing at Manyberries, Brahman cross-breds appear to be more nervous in confined quarters than cattle of the British breeds. This might affect their performance in the feedlot. There are also hazards in trying to winter pure-bred



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The above procedure applies to Septic Tanks that are operating normally. Where, however, clogging and blockages have already occurred, a second treatment should be injected into a system, fourteen days after the first treatment, when unclogging will occur.

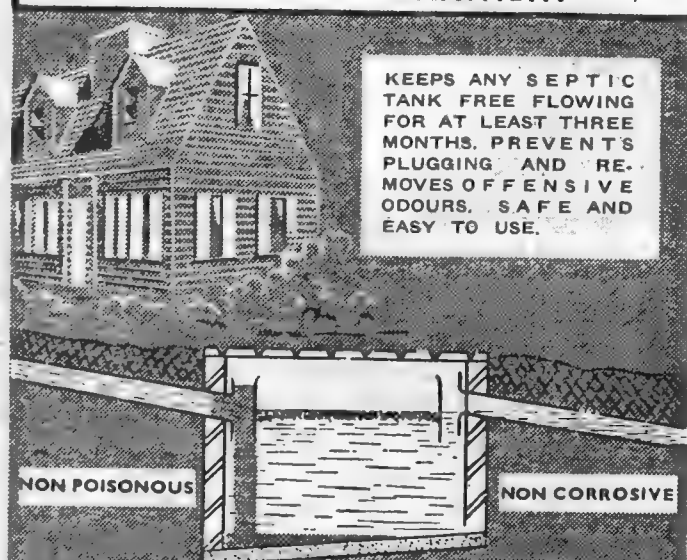
If the treatment is followed at regular intervals of three months your Septic Tank will remain in a free flowing condition.

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Dept. of Agri. Photo.

Left — ¼ Angus; ¼ Brahman, ½ Hereford.

Right — ¼ Shorthorn, ¼ Brahman, ½ Hereford.

These cross-breds were sent from Manyberries to Ottawa for feeding out under Eastern Canadian conditions. One of the characteristics of these Brahman-Hereford cross-breds is great hybrid vigor.

performance of 161 half-Brahman (first-cross) cattle and 98 quarter-Brahman cattle, born from 1951 to 1957.

In these tests at Manyberries the Brahman cross-bred steers raised on the range carried more finish, had a higher dressing percentage and because of finish, graded slightly higher than the Herefords. The data showed only slight differences between breed groups in proportion of carcass weights in the various cuts of beef. Shrinkage during shipment was slightly less with cross-bred than with Herefords.

No information on feed-lot performance of Brahman cross-

cattle of this race in Canada, at least under range conditions, and little is known about their regularity of reproduction in northern climates.

The Zebu, imported from India and known in America as the Brahman, is genetically distinct from the British breeds of beef cattle and is appropriately considered a different race. However, Brahman and British breeds interbreed freely and the cross-breds are normally fertile. Because of the genetic diversity between Brahman and British breeds of beef cattle, a substantial degree of hybrid vigor might be expected in the cross.

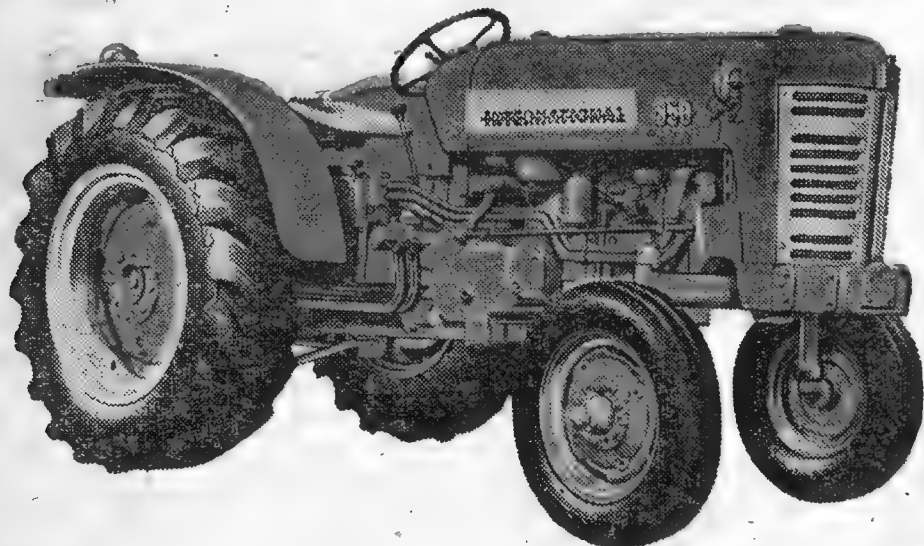


Dept. of Agri. Photo.

A good type Brahman bull similar to those used in the original Manyberries cross-breeding program. The object is to produce good beef animals which are also hardy enough to withstand the severe prairie winters.

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Easter symbols, such as these, have developed through the years from legends, ancient superstitions and religious practices.

Easter customs of ancient origin

WITH THE ADVENT of Easter, mother starts on a frenzied shopping spree. Dad makes one of his infrequent trips to the florist and orders some Bermuda Lilies. Children of the household begin painting and dyeing eggs.

Families all over the world participate in the customary rituals of the holiday, though the origins of these rituals have been blurred by the overlapping of centuries.

The holiday is rooted deeply

in ancient religious tradition, but many of the heathen rites and customs of the Teutonic tribes of central Europe were incorporated by the early church in this Christian feast day. The word "Easter" has its stem in ancient folklore, coming from "Eostre", the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring.

Mother may look to Easter as the perfect excuse to supplement her millinery. But by doing so, she perhaps unknowingly indulges in an ancient superstition declaring misfortune on those not wearing some new item of personal adornment to symbolize the message of the new life of Eastertide.

Dad's trip to the florist helps recall the traditional association of the Bermuda Lily with Easter—a tradition that had its beginning in the late 19th century. The English Puritans in America, with a fierce dislike of church pomp and pageantry, finally relented in their refusal to celebrate Easter. They took to bedecking churches with a profusion of flowers that rarely failed to include the lily.

The children, finding entertainment in boiling and coloring every available egg in the household, are unconcerned with the origins of this custom that pre-dates the birth of Christ. The ancient Egyptians and Persians colored eggs during their spring festival and regarded eggs as a symbol of fertility and renewed life.

Like the Easter Egg, the Easter Rabbit comes to us from the Egyptians. Since the hare is born with its eyes open and since it usually prefers the cover of night in which to seek food, the Egyptians drew a parallel between this animal and the moon. Both were "the open-eyed watchers of the sky."

The lamb, Biblical symbol for the flock of Christ, is especially united with the Easter Season. The Angel of Death, it was said, withheld his hand from smiting Hebrews who had sprinkled the blood of the Passover lamb on the lintel of their doors.

Easter, with its twofold joyful meaning, heralding the resurrection of Christ and the coming of spring, has become a holiday of growing prominence rivaled only by the Christmas Season. A good indication of this is reflected in the increasing number of Easter greeting cards used each year.

It is through the quest for variety of expression on such cards that many of the old legends associated with the holiday have been rediscovered. One such fable is the Legend of the Dogwood Tree.

"At the time of the Crucifixion, the dogwood tree was as large and strong as the oak, and was chosen as the timber for the cross.



Easter cards, in many and varied forms, are one of the modern outcomes of the traditions and symbols associated with Easter.

"To be used for this purpose distressed the tree, and Jesus, in his pity, promised: "Never again shall you know large enough to be used for a cross. Henceforth the dogwood tree shall be slender and twisted; its blossoms in the form of a cross... two long and two short petals. At the edge of such petal there shall be nail prints; in the center of the flower, a Crown of Thorns. And this tree shall be cherished as a reminder of My Cross."

"So it has been, and the springtime flowering of the dogwood has remained a symbol of Divine Sacrifice and the triumph of Eternal Life."

Another colorful legend has been brought to life again in the Legend of the Larkspur.

"Once there was a beautiful garden where Jesus loved to walk. There the grass was greener, the sky bluer, and the sun brighter than anywhere else... and there lovely flowers bloomed and little animals lived.

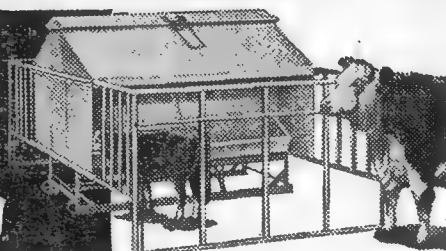
"There came a time, however, when Jesus did not come to the garden. All his little friends missed Him, and particularly one little bunny, who waited day and night for the return of the Master.

"Early on the third day Christ came... and as He walked into the sunshine He gave the bunny a loving smile. Later, when Jesus' friends came to the garden to pray, they found a path of lovely flowers. These flowers were larkspurs—and to this day one may see in the center of each blossom an image of the little bunny who waited three days and three nights to greet the Risen Lord."

Thus from a blending of religion, folklore and superstition, the cherished customs of Easter have come down to the 20th century.

Why do such rituals persist long after their origins flicker dimly in the memory of modern man? Perhaps part of that answer can be found in the basic needs of man for such traditions. For within them are woven a heritage that—apart from religious significance—offers a fanciful and dramatic

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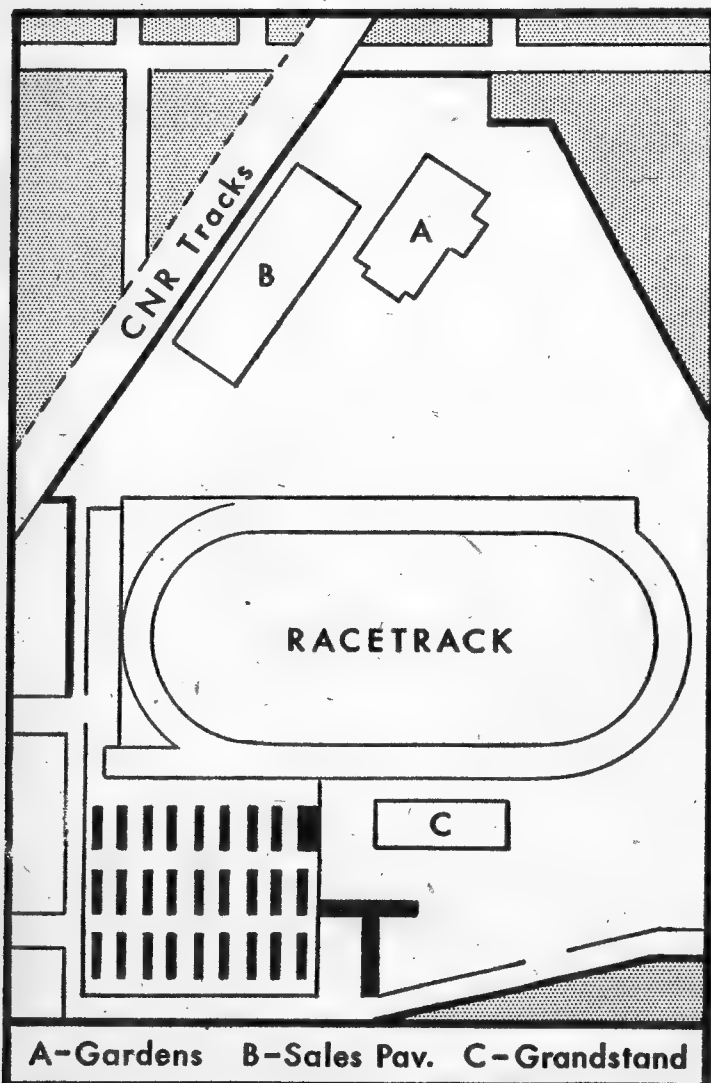
There are Easter cards embodying all these symbols in a host of colors, and over the years many novel effects have been employed.

Publishers, including the Rust Craft Publishers of Dedham, Massachusetts, from whom much of this information comes, have not been content with color printing or hand coloring, but have offered cards with pictures of girls in real silk dresses scented with sachet. Small colored feathers attached to fanciful hats have adorned others. Real pussywillows sometimes form tiny chickens, and small artificial flowers also provide a favorite trim.

Crosses of real birch bark, embroidered flowers on gauze, and pressed flowers from the Holy Land have often found their way to Easter cards. Daily, in every greeting card company scores of creative minds are busy answering the question, "What next"?

Climax seed area

A SEED-PRODUCING area for pedigree, Climax, timothy, is rapidly developing in north-eastern Saskatchewan. In 1957, in spite of a very dry season, the area produced 131,000 pounds of registered seed.



A five-million-dollar expansion program recently announced by the Edmonton Exhibition Association Limited will see major changes at the 89-acre Edmonton site. Included in the plans are enlargement of the racetrack to a possible six furlongs, construction of new buildings and consolidation of the stabling facilities. The new stabling area, outlined in the lower left of the above drawing, will accommodate 630 horses and will be surrounded by a brick wall.

Cheese surplus

CHEESE stocks in Canada at the first of the year were the highest since 1943. But it is felt, in the trade, that they will be substantially reduced by May 1st. Dealers state that the cheese surplus is not actually all surplus — there is, they say, a surplus of mature cheese, but a shortage of new, or fresh cheese.

Western drillers go East

A GROUP of Alberta oil workers left recently to undertake the first extensive oil drilling done on Prince Edward Island in 30 years. The party, 94 in number (including 35 children) travelled on the C.N.R. Super Continental and are employees of Imperial Oil. They expect to be occupied in drilling in the Maritime province for several months.

Too much formaldehyde

AUTHORITIES state that there is still too much formaldehyde being used for the treatment of seed; and this they say in spite of the fact that there are more satisfactory preparations on the market; some of which are fungicide and insecticide combined. These not only destroy the fungus spores on the seed, but they aid in control of wireworms.

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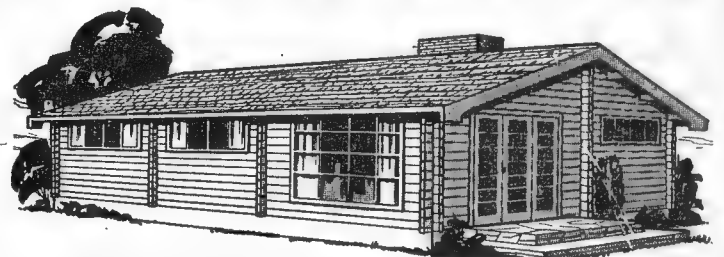
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Plastic film has many uses

WHEN polyester film was first introduced in 1954, few people could have foreseen the wide variety of agricultural jobs this versatile plastic would eventually undertake. The strength of the film, its resistance to tearing and puncturing, and its reaction to extremes of temperature have led farmers to experiment with it in a variety of operations.

It has been used in the packaging of fresh fruit shipped directly to market from the grower and in the packaging of fresh or frozen products that lend themselves to cooking or heating without removal from the package.

Since the produce for this type of package must be pre-trimmed, there is no messy preparation at home and no utensils to clean. Food such as corn on the cob, spinach and peas can be dropped into boiling water while still in a package of "Mylar" polyester film and the film will remain unaffected by the high temperature.

This boil-in-the-bag idea has given a new sales impetus to certain meat products. Corned beef and pastrami are being sold in vacuum-sealed plastic.

When the meat is required for sandwiches, the bags are popped into boiling water, heated, cut open and the contents removed



This entire greenhouse is testing plastic film as a replacement for the usual glass windows. It is located at Falmouth, Nova Scotia, and owned by the Avon Valley Greenhouses Limited. To date the plastic film has successfully withstood the inclement weather and high winds that blow across Nova Scotia from the Atlantic ocean.

all ready for the waiting customer.

Since polyester film can be handled by automatic window-carton machinery, it has been used to make display windows for boxes and cartons. B. C. Tree Fruits Limited, of Kelowna, successfully experimented with a die-cut window of 100-gauge film in the covers of boxes of McIntosh apples. They found the window not only displayed the apples to advantage but also protected them from pilferage and handling.

Because of its strength and exceptionally low gas permeability, this film was used instead

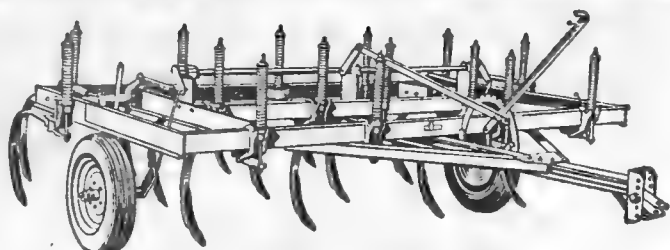
of metal sheeting last summer to line the walls and ceiling of a controlled-atmosphere storage plant at Wolfville, N.S. The plastic film proved less expensive than traditional materials. It was also more easily and swiftly installed.

The latest reported use comes from Avon Valley Greenhouses Limited, Falmouth, N.S., an experimental greenhouse using the film as a replacement for glass windows has been built. Results to date indicate that the experiment will be a success. The plastic has withstood high winds and stormy weather without damage.



Hot corned beef is removed from its boil-in-the-bag package at a snack bar. The bag, made from a combination of transparent plastic films, is vacuum sealed and boiled in steam or water to heat the meat. After the bag is cut open, the meat is removed and placed on the sandwich bread with tongs.

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All Glencoe plows have these other exclusive features: — trip action mechanical lift which enables the plow to be raised or lowered from the tractor seat, (hydraulic lift and 3 point hitch models are also available); special spring and shank arrangement which gives fast, trouble-free clearance of obstacles; 6-foot deep welded frame for maximum trash clearance. Write for free folder and name of nearest dealer.

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Ladies are particularly enthusiastic about the Roto-Hoe. It's so easy to handle. Roto-Hoe for 1958 offers choice of 3 models and 6 handy attachments. Prices are surprisingly low.

Before you consider the many imitations, why not find out why, since 1936, tens of thousands of gardeners have bought the pioneer of all front-mounted tillers — ROTO-HOE.

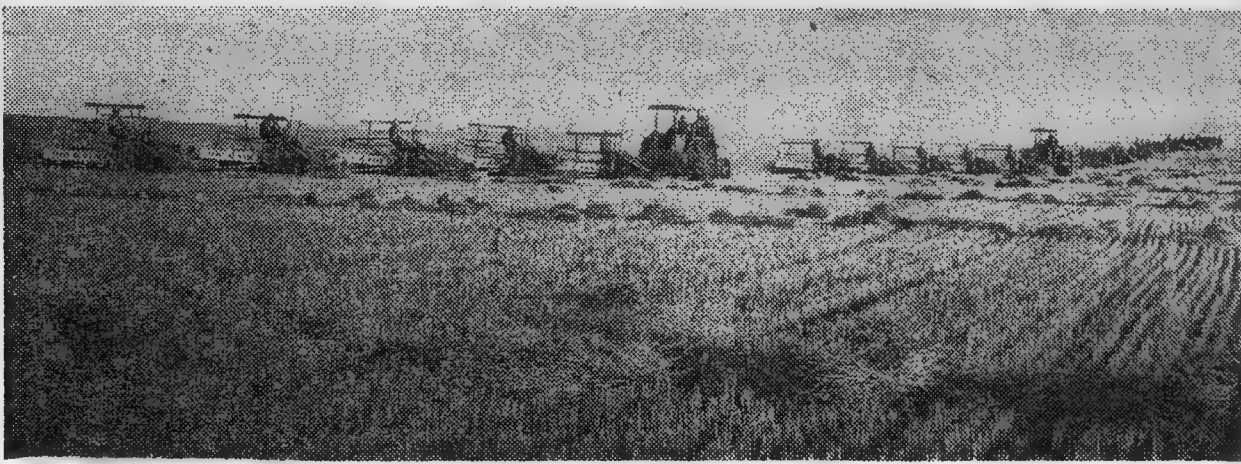
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Early mechanized farming on the prairies. This photo, taken in 1920, shows three heavy Rumley oil pulls, each pulling five of the Cockshutt Company's Frost & Wood binders. Not in the picture are another seven horse-drawn binders at work.

Keeping up with the times

THE latest forward step in the growth of the Cockshutt Farm Equipment Company was taken in Calgary last month with the official opening of the new offices and warehouses in Calgary, which are to serve the whole of Southern Alberta.

Present, and perhaps symbolic with the early western history of the company, were Indian chiefs from several tribes. For the history of Cockshutt, like that of many implement companies, parallels the introduction of mechanized farming which revolutionized prairie agriculture. Originally famous for its specialized plows, around the turn of the century, Cockshutt expanded into other equipment—sweep horse-powers and early threshing machines, riding plows, disc and drag plows, seed drills, cultivators, planters and similar implements. The company did pioneer work on tractor plows and the heavy gang plows which boosted production on the vast areas of the West.

This new idea of power farming gained momentum after World War One, when large tracts of prairie were broken by the big power outfits. The machinery used was invariably the big oil pulls and the stronger steam tractors. Depending on their power they could pull up to

12 heavy mould-board breaking plows. In prominent use at the time were the Reeves, Rumley, John Deere and Case machines.

The old photograph from the Glenbow Foundation archives shows harvesting with Cockshutt equipment on a Greater Production farm in 1920. This land was broken during the wheat shortage after the first great war, on the Blackfoot Reserve near the present Shouldice, Alta. The first crop was unsuccessful, but the next crop this one being harvested—yielded 35 bushels to the acre on 8,000 acres. The grain was No. 1 hard wheat and almost all sold to the government seed branch.

The photograph shows three Rumley oil pulls, each pulling five of the Cockshutt Company's Frost & Wood binders. Also at work, but out of the picture to the left, are seven more horse-drawn binders.

The stooking was done by a good-sized crew of the older Indians on the reserve. Most of the younger Indians were operating farms of their own, but their elders pitched in for the greater production scheme and stooked at the wage of 70 cents an acre. This was later increased by five cents an acre.



Symbolizing Cockshutt's early contribution to prairie agriculture, were Indian chiefs in full ceremonial regalia at the opening of the new Cockshutt offices and warehouses in Calgary. The new facilities were officially opened by Senator James Gladstone, flanked by the Chief of the Stoney and the Chief of the Blackfoot.

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Nick Chicks will lay in 4½ to 5 months and will return more profit than other breeds on the market today

Sold as pullets only, \$42.00 per 100. 95% guarantee as above also applies to Parmenter Reds, the famous brown egg layer.

Pullets.	Unsexed
\$36.75 per 100.	\$17.85 per 100

HART SCHNEIDER B.B.B. TURKEY POULTS, \$75.00 per 100.

NICHOLS MEAT STRAIN CHICKS SOLD UNSEXED ONLY, \$18.00 per 100

Pullets	Unsexed
Parlay 333 Cross-Breds	\$34.75 / \$15.85
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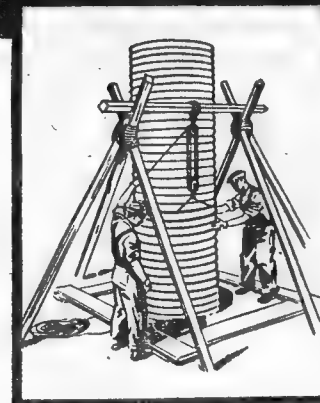
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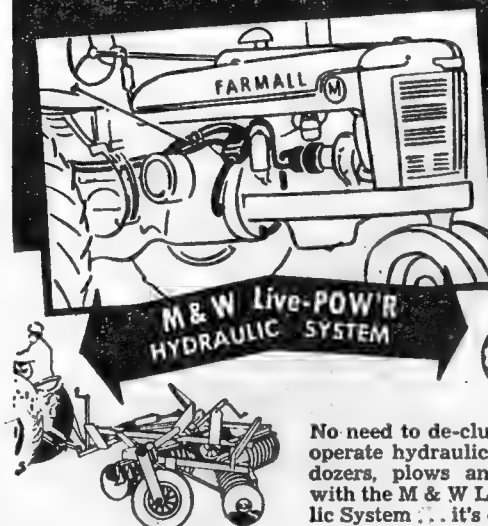
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Box 351, Calgary, Alta.



Aunt Sal

*Some things can seem so simple,
To you, and you, and you;
But it's a different story,
When we don't know what to do.*

I'M SURE YOU must be aware that when I sit down to answer your questions quite a slice of research has gone into the questions before I ever tackle the actual reply. I contact experts and delve into many books of reference and so on. I don't just "pick the answers out of the blue," so to speak. But I'm very human so can err at times. And seemingly I did err in the February issue when I referred the lady who wanted a circular pattern for knitting socks to the Chatelaine Magazine pattern dept. I received a letter from this magazine stating they did not stock such a pattern. Well I know they did several years

back for I have a picture of just such a pattern pasted up in one of my numerous scrapbooks. But possibly the pattern has been discontinued now. Sorry to have disappointed you in this matter. I'll just have to keep looking elsewhere, and when I do find it I'll let you know.

Q.: How do you set the dye in blue cotton material? — (Mrs. M. T., Major, Sask.)

A.: I have found that vinegar is the best helper in this case. Add about ½ cupful to a pan of cold water and let the material stand in this at least half an hour before washing in sudsey water.

Q.: You told us recently how to make hominy from raw corn, but I'd like to know of a good way to prepare canned hominy for the table. — (Mrs. O. T., Innisfail, Alta.)

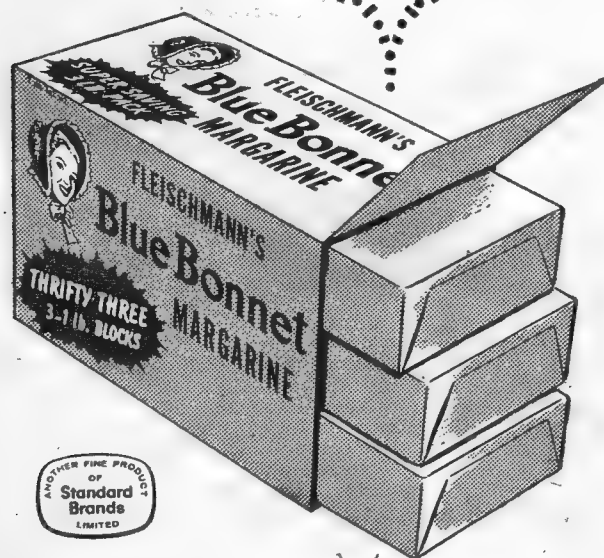
A.: HOMINY AND CHEESE

- 2 cups cooked hominy
- 2/3 cup grated cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. salt
- Dash of pepper
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tps. chopped pimento (optional)
- 2 tbsps. chopped parsley (also op.)

Combine all ingredients and pour into buttered casserole. Place in a larger pan of water. Bake in oven 330° F. for about 30 minutes.

ECONOMY! CONVENIENCE! QUALITY!

You get all three with
this money-saving
3 LB. PACK



Because each pound of delicious, all-vegetable Blue Bonnet is individually wrapped, you can color one pound at a time easily and quickly. The unused pounds stay fresh longer — free from ice-box odors — perfectly protected until needed!

55-55

Here's An Idea . . .



Eggs combine well with almost all other foods. Why not try a new way now and then?

When you serve them for the main course they not only combine well but add colorful interest to the meal. Shown in the above picture are: macaroni casserole garnished with sliced, hard-cooked eggs and sprigs of watercress; creamed hard-cooked egg wedges with mushrooms and peas, served in ring of spinach and garnished with tomatoes; and individual servings of eggs baked in mashed potato nests.

Q.: Have you a good, reliable recipe for boiled salad dressing? I've tried so many and all seem to curdle or separate? — Mrs. M. D., High Prairie, Alberta.

A.: NOTE: Be sure when you're making this to mix the sugar and flour (or cornstarch together well).

BOILED SALAD DRESSING

- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsps. salt
- 5 tbsps. flour
- 2 tbsps. butter
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 cup vinegar
- 2 cups milk

Mix all ingredients together except milk and add it last. Cook until thick in top of double boiler. If too thick when you wish to use it, thin with cream.

Q.: I would like help with the following questions about sauerkraut. Is it safe to make it in an aluminum container? Does sauerkraut have a place on a reducing diet? How does it compare in calory content with raw cabbage.

A.: My interest was aroused by these questions and they sent me scurrying to my reference books. One is advised not to make "kraut in an aluminum kettle — better stick to a crock. 'Kraut has a very low calory content, only 15 calories per ½ cup, while even raw cabbage has a count of 20 calories per ½ cup.

Q.: I have always used the baking chocolate when making coating for candies, but I thought I'd like the milk chocolate for a change. Can you please furnish me with such a recipe? — (Mrs. E. L. Hammond).

A.: I'm sure there are many women better at making chocolates than I am, but I have been told that we cannot get them to turn out successfully using milk chocolate alone, we should combine the two. So I have always used this recipe.

Place in top of double boiler, these

- 6 squares unsweetened chocolate
- ½ cake of parawax
- 2 tbsps. icing sugar
- 2 bars milk chocolate

Do not let water in bottom of boiler come to boil. Stir continuously while melting. These amounts will make about 4 lbs. of candies.

Q.: I have an old cup with the words "To commemorate Peace, The Great European War, 1914-1919" and some other items such as a camera and a silver bank, etc.. I wondered could you give me any information on the value of such items. — (Mr. L. D., Lac La Biche, Alta.)

A.: I have been making inquiries about such items, but to date I have not been able to unearth any definite information about any of them. (How about it, readers?)

NOTE: All letters sent to Aunt Sal, in care of the Farm and Ranch Review, Box 620, Calgary, Alta., will be handled on this page.

No fried grasshoppers?

IT WOULD be interesting to see how many Canadians would have enjoyed their dinners at a do held in Australia recently. 600 guests paid 25 Australian pounds (about \$56) each to attend a dinner in aid of charity. The national dishes of 10 countries (what is Canada's national dish?) were served, but in addition chefs made a special effort on Australian dishes such as kangaroo-tail soup, kangaroo steaks, baked python meat, crocodile steaks, and baked witchetty grubs. Witchetty grubs are a delicacy, it is said, of Australian aborigines. They are large, fat and white, and are found under the bark of various gum trees. They are said to have a fine "nutty" flavor.

R.C.M.P. band also at Stampede

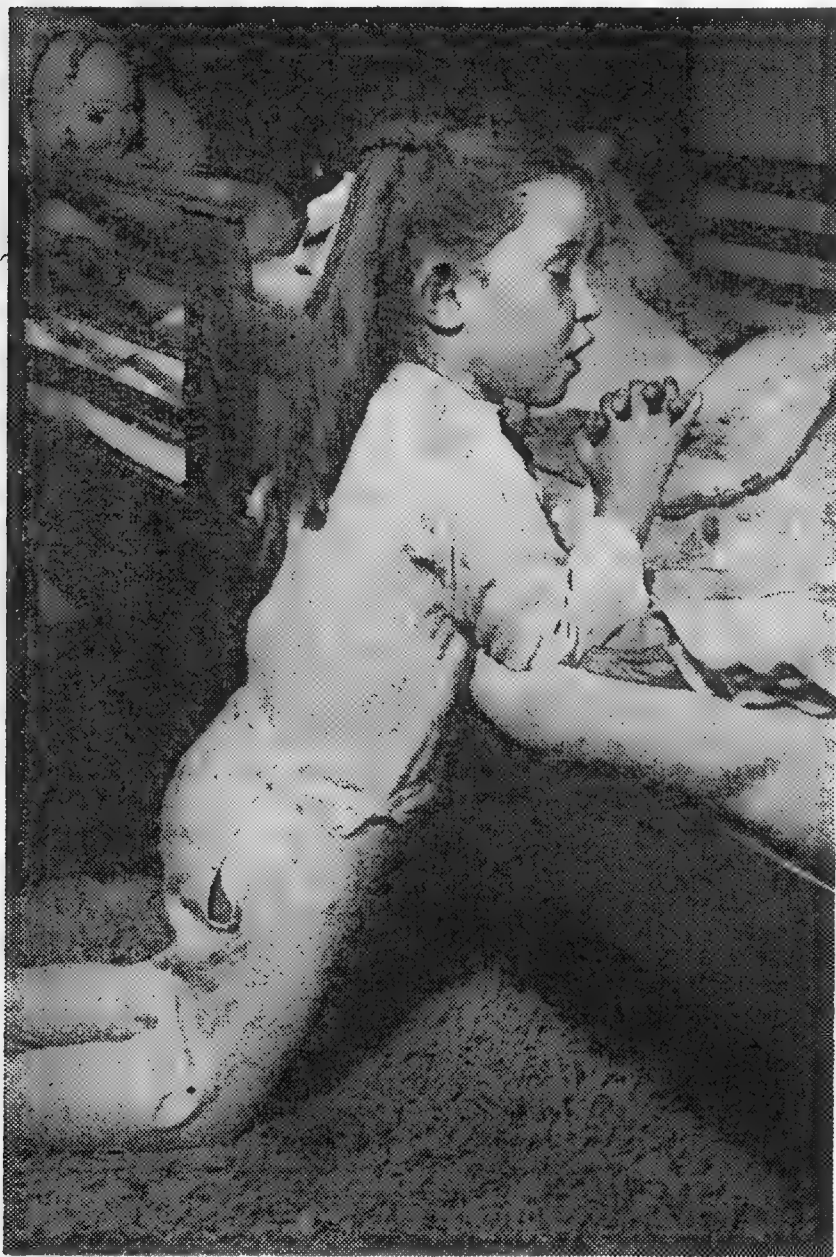
THE R.C.M.P.'s famous musical ride will be a feature this year, at the Calgary Stampede, each afternoon, July 7th to 12th. In addition the Mounted Police band of 40 pieces will be performing. The band will be given the place of honor at the head of the parade, and will also provide the music for the musical ride. In all, there will be upwards of 80 R.C.M.P. in the Monday morning Stampede parade.

4-H Club grants in Saskatchewan

IT has been announced that Saskatchewan 4-H Clubs will in the future receive grants from the provincial and federal departments of agriculture on the basis of efficiency and number of members. The policy had been to pay half the money spent for prizes at achievement days.

Saskatchewan has 840 4-H clubs with a membership of around 12,000 and the new deal is apparently favored by all concerned.

"..... Now I Lay Me"



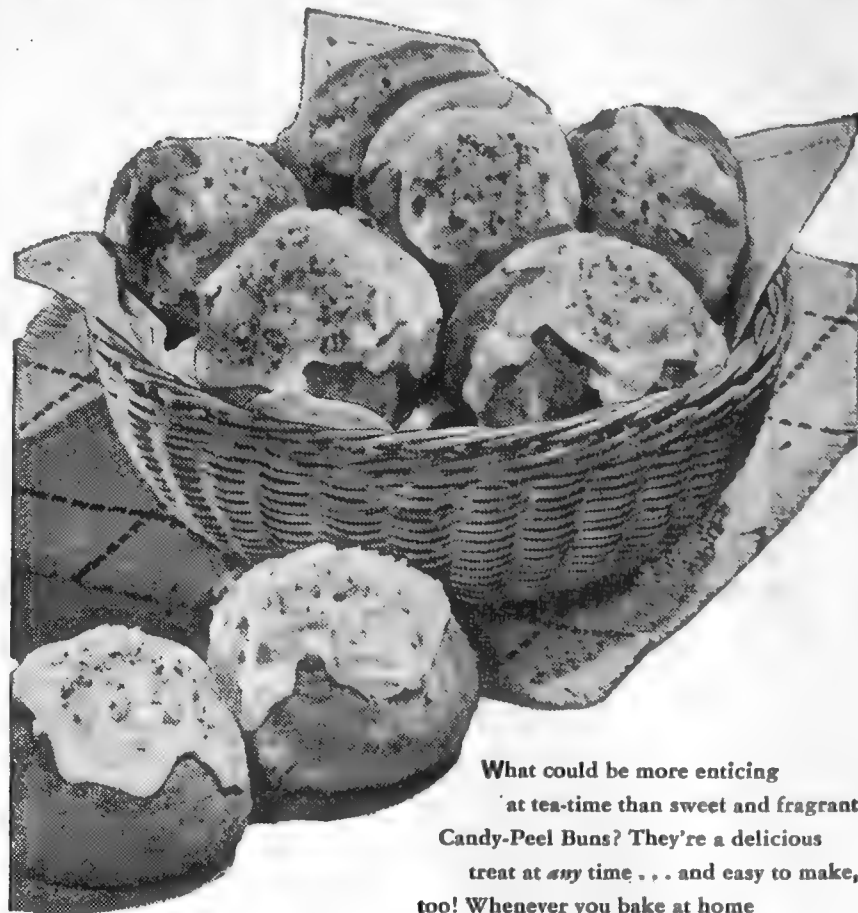
by Louise Price Bell

THE bedtime prayer can be as important to a growing youngster as the meal she eats. For prayer time strengthens our spiritual thoughts... and without spirituality we could develop into a heathen people.

Make sure that every child in the home has a quiet moment to say his or her prayers every night, preferably the last thing before popping into bed. This means that after playtime, bathing, tooth-brushing and perhaps a story, the very last thoughts in the mind of a child are thoughts that deal with God, and the comfort and security He gives.

The choice of youngster's prayers is wide, from the traditional, "Now I lay me", to others just as simple, and sometimes easier to say. Often a child can make up her own prayer and since this kind is by far the most important, be sure to respect it. Let us not be too firm about bowing heads and closing eyes, since a lovely picture above a bed can serve to focus a child's attention while she is thinking of her prayer. After all, the child's desire to say her prayers is the important thing... a habit that can persist throughout a lifetime.

Sweet-tooth treasures! CANDY-PEEL BUNS



What could be more enticing at tea-time than sweet and fragrant Candy-Peel Buns? They're a delicious treat at any time... and easy to make, too! Whenever you bake at home depend on Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast for wonderful results every time. Surprise your family with this toothsome treat tomorrow.

CANDY-PEEL BUNS

Measure into bowl

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup lukewarm water

Stir in

2 teaspoons granulated sugar

Sprinkle with contents of

2 envelopes Fleischmann's
Active Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.

Meantime, sift together into a bowl

$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups once-sifted all-
purpose flour

1 teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons granulated
sugar

Mix in

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cardamom
seeds

Cut in finely

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup chilled shortening

and mix in

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped candied peel

Combine

3 well-beaten eggs

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla

and dissolved yeast.

Stir into flour mixture and beat until smooth

and elastic. Cover with a damp cloth. Let rise in warm place, free from draft, until doubled in bulk, about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Stir down batter.

Work in an additional

$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups (about) once-sifted
all-purpose flour

Turn out dough onto a large square of cheesecloth; gather edges of cheesecloth together loosely and tie. Drop dough into a large pan of cool, but not chilled water, and let stand until doubled in bulk, about 45 minutes. Remove dough from cheesecloth and place on very-well-floured board or canvas. Form into a 16-inch roll; cut roll into 16 equal pieces; form into smooth balls. Place, well apart, on greased cookie sheets. Brush with melted butter or margarine. Cover. Let rise until doubled in bulk, about 25 minutes. Bake in a hot oven, 425°, 12 to 15 minutes.

Frost while warm with the following icing and sprinkle with chopped nuts.

Combine 1 cup sifted icing sugar and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon vanilla; add sufficient milk to make a stiff icing.

Yield: 16
buns.



Needs no refrigeration

Always active, fast rising

Keeps fresh for weeks

April is the time of year
When life is born a-new;
And all of nature re-awakes
And people feel it too.

Aunt Sal Suggests...

DURING this past month two books came my way, and each one of them affected my thinking in a very definite way. The first book was one that featured "from kiver to kiver" a fine collection of hints originating from the households of women all over the country. Each had been given a home-testing and had proven beneficial to the homemakers. Because handy hints have been a special hobby of mine for almost more years than I care to count I read this

book with close attention. All told I found almost 100 ideas that were brand new to me. I think there's no better time than right now to share with you the hints that struck me as outstandingly worth while.

MEAT HINTS

Before frying liver pop it into boiling water for just a minute or two first then it will be improved in tenderness and texture.

Instead of making a large-

sized meat loaf, bake the ground meat into individual cakes (using muffin tins for this). Then if you have some left over, you can wrap them in foil and freeze them for future serving.

For those who like their meat rare, a problem arises when you need to reheat the meat. A cute trick is to place lettuce leaves a-top the meat to prevent it from overcooking.

And have you thought of placing two or three strips of bacon in the bottom of a loaf pan sticking to the bottom of the pan.

If you decide to serve that Easter ham boiled instead of baked be sure to leave the ham in the water until it is cold and you'll find it is more tasty and tender. (And, of course, save the liquid for soup the next day for verily there is no soup better than that in which a ham has been boiled, especially if you toss handfuls of dried peas in with it.)

And have you thought of freezing left-over gravy in the ice cube containers? Comes in so handy for ice-box raiders when they want to concoct a meat sandwich and adorn it with heated gravy.

It just came to me last week that it was March, 1948, that I launched the page in which I try to help you with your household problems. A full ten years of questions and answers! How often I have grinned rather wryly when I recall that when I started writing this second page a personal friend warned me, "My dear, you've bitten off more than you can chew . . . mark my words you're going to run out of questions, there just aren't that many household problems." Well I hate to say "I told you so", but here we are ten years later and the only problem I have trouble in surmounting is in finding room for a small fraction of the questions that you send my way.

ANOTHER FINE COOKIE RECIPE

It is the woeful truth that as we get older and our chewing apparatus isn't what it used to be we develop a fondness for softer foods, especially cookies. I've tried out this recipe with slight variations three times during the past month, and I have given it a three-star rating in my books and they are called:

APPLE SAUCE COOKIES

First boil together 2 peeled chopped apples and 1/2 cup water and 1 cup chopped raisins. When boiled to a soft pulp, lay aside to cool then add to the following ingredients:

- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsps. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1/2 cup sugar (I used brown)

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 1 egg

Drop from spoon onto lightly greased cookie sheet and bake for 10 to 12 minutes in oven 400° F. (These will keep well for at least a week, that is, if no one raids the cookie jar.)

A SECOND FINE BOOK THAT I HIGHLY RECOMMEND

The second book that I received with keen joy this past month was one that every mother of small children and every grandmother and teacher should welcome with squeals of delight. One afternoon recently when the elements were acting very unspringlike, and the snow was whirling round my home, I spent several very pleasant hours before the fireplace cozily settled in my favorite chair. And, I declare, I was quite oblivious of the storm without.

Now the writer of this delightful verse for children played a very big place in my life for when I was a young girl she was our next door neighbor, and I've kept in touch with her ever since, and it was she who used to predict that I had talents (or somethin' akin to it) and should try my hand at writing. And as the years went on I did start writing, and now I am conceited enough to hope that there are more than a few women that would be sorry if Aunt Sal dropped from the scene. And it was the lady, Ida Halliburton, who lives at 4921 - 46th Street in Red Deer, Alberta, who can furnish you with a copy of her fine book. It sells for three dollars and, in my opinion, you'll never regret buying it.

Bye bye for now . . . and every good wish. Aunt Sal.

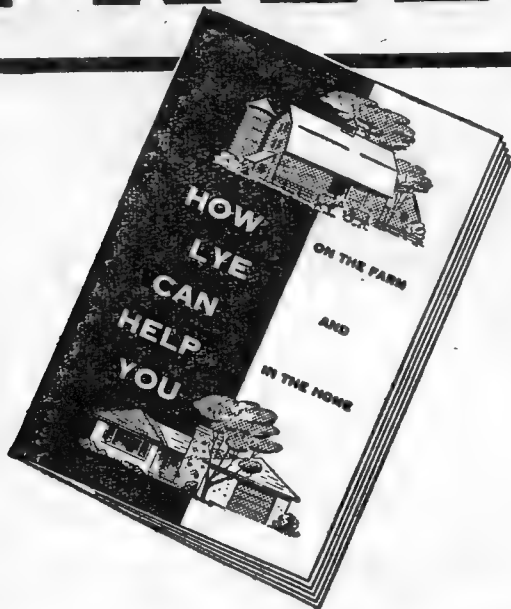
When is Easter?

FOR those who want to figure out for themselves when Easter comes each year: Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the full moon which happens on or after the spring equinox (March 21st) and when this full moon occurs on Sunday, Easter Sunday is the following Sunday.

Likely the best method of attaining real old age was in the answer given reporters by a lady of Morrison, Colorado, on her 100th birthday. "All I know," she said, "is, just don't die."



"Rustle up WHAT firewood!"



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Explains the importance of cleanliness in caring for animals and protecting their health. Gives the exact solutions of Gillett's Lye to use for effective cleaning, disinfecting and removing odors from livestock buildings and equipment. Shows you dozens of ways to save time and work on the farm and in the home. Result of research at 2 famous Canadian agricultural colleges. Mail coupon below. There is no obligation of any kind.

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NAME

ADDRESS

PROV.

Don't make your own will!

Amateur Wills

WE have had to deal recently with several sad cases in which individuals assumed that they were sufficiently well-informed to draw their own wills. In every instance the wills have failed to carry out what was intended.

As a typical example of this, in one of the most recent cases, an elderly lady attempted to provide for an old and faithful servant by interlining her wishes on the face of her existing will. Her attempt was completely ineffectual since any change in any will must be made in the same way as an original will; that is, it must be signed by the will-maker and two witnesses.

At the other extreme, we were shocked recently to learn that a most competent, well educated and knowledgeable man had taken it upon himself to re-write his own will shortly before his death. His signature was witnessed by only one person. As a result the document is literally not worth the paper upon which it was written.

The principal rules governing the execution of wills are simple enough. It is required that a will be signed at the foot or end thereof by the person who is making it and by two witnesses who must be there together and sign in the will-maker's presence. Experience shows, however, that these basic rules are perhaps not quite as simple as they seem to be — for example, in another case we are interested in, a will was declared invalid simply because the two witnesses were not present together when the will was signed.

Our advice to anyone intending to make a new will or to alter an existing will is always the same: a lawyer should be consulted so that the new document may be prepared and executed under his supervision. It is most advisable that the actual phrasing of a will should be dictated by an expert, if difficulties of interpretation are to be avoided. Anyone who neglects these simple precautions is taking an inexcusable chance that his intentions will be defeated.—Canada Trust Bulletin.



"So this is the thanks I get for surprising you with a new tractor on your birthday."

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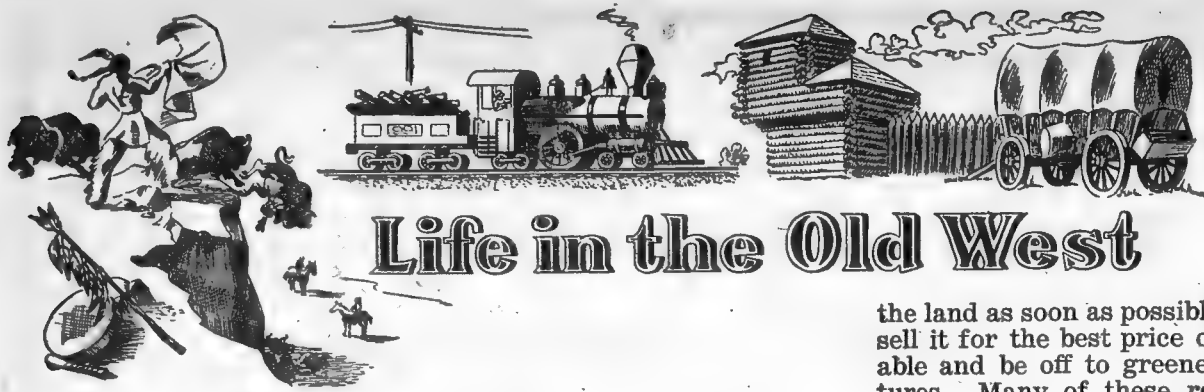
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Life in the Old West

Looking back

by Florence Hilary

WHEN the plains of east central Alberta were opened for homesteading people from all parts of the world flocked in to obtain their "free" land.

Most of those who planned to establish homes exercised their privilege of filing on a pre-emp-

tion also which would give them 320 acres, a nice sized farm. Others, being birds of passage not wanting to put down permanent roots, were satisfied with a quarter-section on which they would put in the minimum duties required, obtain title to

the land as soon as possible then sell it for the best price obtainable and be off to greener pastures. Many of these rootless ones did not even acquire stock and equipment to operate their farms, but worked out and hired their breaking, seeding and harvesting done, living in the small shacks they erected for the necessary time to fulfil their homestead duties.

file on suitable land before moving. Land locators in the nearest towns, which were many miles away, did a thriving business driving prospective homesteaders over the country with team and democrat and could find their way anywhere over the almost trackless prairie.

Three such prospects from Manitoba were guided to their destination by a man who had already obtained land for himself and they were located on good farms nearby. Two of these men were practical farmers prepared to work hard to establish homes, but the other, an ex-preacher, was a most impractical type, not at all suited for the rough-and-ready life of prairie homesteading.

Before leaving Manitoba this



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Without the help of today's tractor, this pioneer homesteader broke the virgin prairie sod with three horses on the plow. This photograph shows a pioneer farmer breaking land in the Calgary area in the year 1890.

Many of the new settlers were experienced farmers glad of the chance to make a farm for so little and determined to make a good home for their families. Others were totally ignorant of the conditions and the work that would have to be done, not knowing a township from a townsite or a section from a section house. Some of these eventually made good after learning everything the hard way, while some gave up in utter discouragement after a few months and drifted away leaving behind what little they had acquired since coming to this land which seemed to them so impossible.

In most cases, especially those with families, the men had made a preliminary trip to select and

man's wife, as impractical as himself, had put up a large amount of food for him to take apparently with the idea that it would last him nearly all the time he was away. Included in the lunch basket were a lot of hard-boiled eggs which, after a week or more of warm weather were becoming a little less than strictly fresh. At the suggestion that as they were no longer eatable, they should be thrown away, the gentleman waxed quite indignant. "His dear wife had boiled those eggs for him herself and it would be an insult to her to throw them away." History has not recorded what eventually became of the eggs, but it is presumed someone quietly disposed of them before they became quite impossible to



This old photograph from the Earnest Brown collection shows a Mr. Guest and his family starting out for their homestead in the Pembina District in 1908. It's difficult to make out in this old print, but there are six small youngsters atop the big wagon beside the driver. That wagon carried everything they owned, while their stock walked behind.

live with. This couple managed to muddle through the years, never getting ahead but not quite falling by the wayside either.

Many nationalities were represented in this new country, big, husky Scandinavians, fine farmers and good neighbors; people from Ontario, prim, thrifty, uncompromising; Americans, with their bragging and "know-how"; the Scots with their pride of race, and of course, the English, not the remittance men — this was a little after their time — but men who were not quite as green as they had once been, having gained experience in Ontario and Manitoba before coming further west to start out on their own.

There were many bachelors, of course, and as the years went on Cupid scored many a bull's-eye and another bachelor hit the dust. There were a few hold-outs, however, and some of these proved to be better community men than their married neighbors. One gave the land for a school, another was always available to do the necessary but usually thankless jobs that come up in any community, in fact this man would leave his own work any time to give a helping hand.

When one managed to save up enough to take a trip back to the Old Country, someone there, completely ignorant of conditions in Canada, asked him if he had central heating in his house. "Certainly, I've got central heating," replied our friend, straight faced, "the stove's right in the centre of the shack."

As the railway pushed westward small towns appeared almost overnight, bringing stores and post offices within easy reach. Roads were built, rural mail routes started and eventually that final link in the banishment of loneliness and isolation, telephones.

There are not many of the original homesteaders left now, but these few can enjoy that final convenience and comfort that has lately been brought to the farm — electricity — a far cry from the days when they jolted over the prairie with team and democrat looking for a good place to establish a home.

Seed grain treatment

THE chemical treatment of all seed grain suspected of being infected with bunt, and for the control of wireworms, is common farm practice. The older chemicals such as a solution of copper sulphate or formalin, have been abandoned because of the damage to germination and the problem of drilling wet seed.

The Swift Current Experimental Farm says the success of modern seed dressings depends on the manner and method used to apply them. There must be an accurate measure of the grain and an accurate metering device to apply the recommended amount of chemical. Mixing

must be thorough so that all kernels come in contact with the chemicals. In the case of wireworm treatment, the seed should be coated.

Commercial seed dressings are applied by mechanical means in a treater of one of the following types:

1. Rotary treater — applies either powders or liquids. The seed and the dressing are put into a drum, in correct proportions, which is rotated until coverage is complete.

2. Gravity treater — in which

the seed and disinfectant flow over a system of baffles or cones to accomplish the treatment.

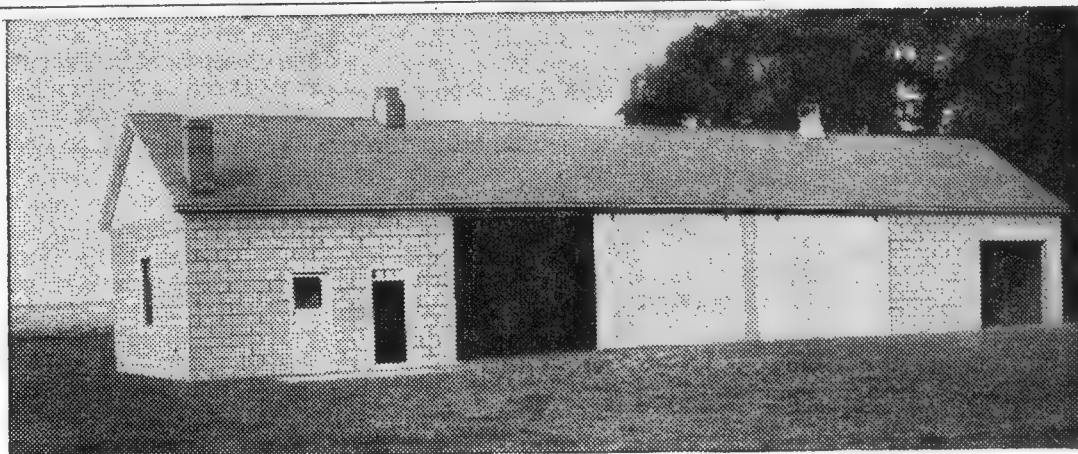
3. Spiral conveyor — depends on the mixing action of spiral flights or intermittent paddles to mix the seed and seed dressing. Powder or liquid chemical is metered with a measured quantity of grain.

4. Spray treater—is used for the application of liquid seed dressings. The chemical is applied as a fine spray or mist, regulated and metered at the required rate.

5. Slurry treater—makes use of wettable powders to reduce the handling hazards.

Feeding dogs and cats

A STATISTICIAN has figured that the average town dog costs \$78.00 a year to keep, and the average cat \$11.68. Canadian totals are not available, but it is estimated that the U.S. dog population is around 28 million.



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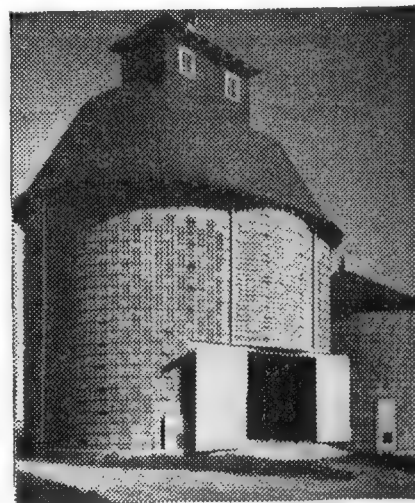
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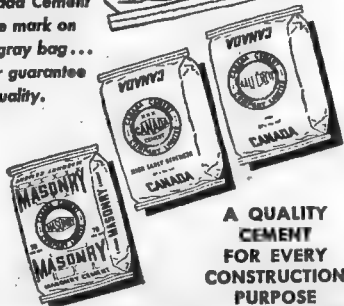
This free 116-page book will show you how to build storm-proof, fire-proof implement sheds and modern farm storage facilities that will protect your grain against rats and moisture.



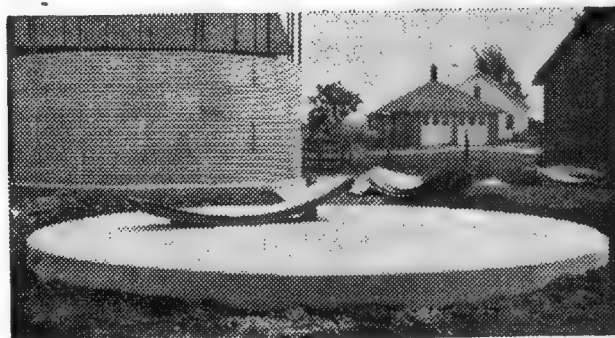
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Coyote's defender

Dear Sir:—

I must agree with Wallace E. Sailer of Medicine Hat who in the last issue defended the coyote. I understand in Wyoming and a few more west-central States, coyotes are protected. With the use of modern poisons, etc., the coyote hasn't a chance.

We are throwing nature out of balance by destroying our wildlife and poor conservation practices. I think its about time we declared war on English sparrows and Starlings instead of coyotes, hawks, etc. Since our trigger-happy hunters must shoot, there are plenty of the above two species to go around.

Yours truly,
Alvin Gaetz,
Bluffton, Alta.

Dear Sir:—

I don't think you are giving enough credit to this so-called (slim, sick and sorry-looking skeleton) as you call him. He is not such a sick-looking animal. He is a lot smarter than a



• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

lot of us that hunt him. I for one have trapped, snared and shot at him for years, but he still is around.

I think we should be lucky that we have him around. Anytime I shot a coyote, around the farm buildings stealing chickens or what have you, nine times out of ten he was old or crippled; he had been in a trap or had been shot. In other words he couldn't hunt any more.

In my way of thinking, there is only one in a hundred that does a farmer harm. The other 99 are busy killing mice and other pests. So don't destroy him altogether.

Yours truly,
Sydney Shaw
Wainwright, Alta.

Prairie dogs

Dear Sir:—

The Grant MacEwen article, "I Went to the Dogs", in the February issue, was really tops. Surely it would be a worthwhile move to set aside an acreage of the cheap land in Cyprus Hills to save these few remaining interesting little animals.

How well I remember on a visit near Fort Collins, Colorado, in 1910, trying to slip up on a colony of Prairie Dogs with my little model 1890 Winchester, but Uncle Sam's dogs were quite safe, as I was no more able to get near them than was MacEwen.

Yours truly,
H. C. Weaver,
Box 321,
Lloydminster, Sask.

Where's Twilley?

Dear Sir:—

When are we Old Timers going to read more from F. A. Twilley at Swan River? Has he stopped writing, or have you dropped him out? It is better than reading about tame rabbits.

Yours truly,
D. McGregor,
Minto, Manitoba.

Unconvinced reader

Dear Sir:—

If it is anything I dislike is a turncoat, and this is just what you have made of yourselves by the editorial, "Spring Election Fever," appearing in the edition of your rag I received today.

ANOTHER FERGUS LANDRACE SWINE FARM SALE

TO BE HELD AT

Edmonton Exhibition Barns

ON

Monday, April 28th at 1 p.m.

TWO CARLOADS OF THE CHOICEST BLOOD LINES PURCHASED IN THE OLD COUNTRY. Featuring at this sale approximately 40 bred gilts and sows close to farrowing. Among which are the Champions, sons and daughters of Champions of the largest British Bacon Shows. Sows and gilts are carrying service to such noted boars as Chartwell Viking 3rd, Chartwell Prince, Chartwell Baron, all purchased from Sir Winston Churchill. The last mentioned boar is from Chartwell Lava 5th, a Churchill sow which cost us with her litter over \$6,500.00 landed in Fergus. Also gilts and sows carrying service to Craig Atlas 6th, Champion boar at the Edinburgh Show, Keir Minister, and other imported boars. Also offering 6-month-old gilts, serviceable boars, 4-month-old gilts and boars imported in dam, sired by outstanding herd boars in Scotland. All animals inoculated against Erysipelas and Shipping Fever. Health of herd supervised and guaranteed by competent Veterinarians, health certificate supplied. For full details send for sales catalogue. Don Ball and Associates, Auctioneers and Sales Manager, License Nos. 5, No. 15, No. 16, Edmonton, Alberta.

Fergus Landrace Swine Farm
FERGUS ONTARIO

Who do you think you are trying to convince anyone how to vote on the 31st. The calibre of your paper has never been very high, but has now slipped to a new low, too low to be allowed in my home.

As of right now cancel the balance of my subscription, and don't worry about any rebate. I don't like tainted money.

Yours truly,
G. W. Wilson,
R.R. No. 6,
North Edmonton.

"Stingy critter" (again)

Dear Sir:—

Have just read your editorial entitled "Warning of Pitfalls," which you end by saying, "We are on the side of the individual". How very touching! But why on the side of the individual that has money to invest? Why on the side of the individual that sells to the farmer, the individual that buys from the farmer at the lowest price possible. On the side of the individual that exploits the farmers. Why aren't you on the side of the individual that works for a living!

Yours truly,
Mike Taczynski,
Gypsumville, Man.

Marketing eggs

Dear Sir:—

I noticed in the Review a letter from Ralph Thornton about egg prices. . . . stating that he received — net \$5.40, or less than 14 cents a dozen for 32½ dozen eggs. According to my arithmetic he is a bit wrong, for 32½ times 14c makes \$4.55 and not \$5.40.

Now, what I'd like to know is why anyone would produce eggs at that price at the present time.

I am a farmer myself, have been most of my life, but never been in the habit of producing anything below the cost of production. . . . If I can't get the price which I think is fair, I use it myself or give it away to some needy person.

I have a neighbor who produces the best eggs possible and has his price set at 60c a dozen

The Farm and Ranch Review is one of the best farm journals. It has real advertising appeal.

IT'S **EASIER** NOW—THE BOSS PULLS MY TONGUE FORWARD AND WITH HIS OTHER HAND HE DROPS THE GREASED TABLET ON THE BACK OF MY TONGUE—I SWALLOW AS MY TONGUE COMES BACK—IT WORKS—GENTLE AND SURE!

DR. BELL'S VETERINARY MEDICINE CO.
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Let ME make the WATER do the RUNNING!

Guess I don't have to tell you how important water is on your farm. . . . BUT—

Pumping water by hand and carrying it any distance is an unnecessary chore. You'd have to pump 1000 gallons (that's over 4 tons of water) to compete with electricity.

What's more—you'd have to do it for from 3 to 5 cents an hour. I deliver it anywhere on the farm, too. So why pump and carry water when my hourly wage is so low? Be modern . . . Pump Electrically.

Reddy Kilowatt
Your Hired Hand

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CANADIAN UTILITIES LIMITED

AND NOW TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST—WARM AND SUNNY WITH OCCASIONAL LIGHT SHOWERS.

the whole year around . . . He has steady customers and they know what they get when they buy from him . . .

Yours truly,
Bill Loopol,
Shelley, B.C.

Compulsory boards

Dear Sir:—

What is wrong with the farms in Saskatchewan today! The CCF government has set the price of \$31.50 per thousand for spruce lumber delivered to the planer. The producer pays 90c per hour for labour. In British Columbia they pay \$1.75 per hour. Is there any wonder that our young, able-bodied men have left Saskatchewan. I don't think that it is hard to see that the young men have been forced out by the Saskatchewan Compulsory Timber Board . . . The CCF is going to have it all . . .

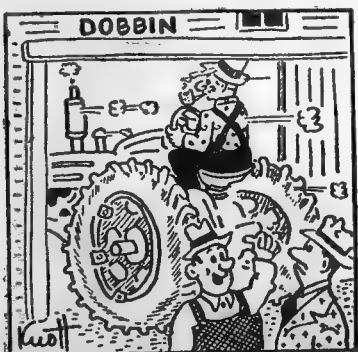
I believe there will be thousands more farmers who will be leaving their farms and nobody to take their place. The next will be the people of the towns and villages. They'll soon find themselves in the same boat as the farmers . . .

For about 8 years we were compelled to ship our furs to the Saskatchewan Compulsory Fur Marketing Service at the lowest price in the memory of the oldest resident. I shipped five beaver skins, winter caught and in good condition and all I got was an average of \$1.82 each . . .

I believe that if Hitler had won the war, the first thing he would have done would be to close up the Saskatchewan Compulsory Fur Marketing Service. We were free people in Saskatchewan before the CCF government came to power. We could ship our furs wherever we pleased. In the hungry thirties . . . an average beaver skin sold for about \$28.00 each . . .

I believe the Crown Corporations of the CCF have brought Saskatchewan to the brink of disaster. What little help the farmers of Saskatchewan can expect to get from the Federal government, I believe, will all be absorbed by the Crown Corporations of the CCF . . . When farmers are compelled to pay these high taxes in the elevator is there any wonder that out of 140,000 farmers more than 37,000 have left their farms. It was never that bad in the hungry thirties.

Yours truly,
Julius Iverson,
Endeavour, Sask.



GRANDPA JUST CAN'T FORGET THE OLD DAYS.

Manitoba oil

MANITOBA, too, has oil. Oil wells in Manitoba have produced nearly \$46,000,000.00 worth of oil in the last six years, and the production is coming up. 224 wells were drilled in 1957 of which 127 were producers.

Control of vegetable sales just misses

VEGETABLE marketing will be on the same old basis in Manitoba this year. Vegetable growers, in a close vote, voted against the setting up of a vegetable marketing plan in the province. 94.7 per cent of the eligible voters cast votes, with 417 favoring the plan, 338 against it, and 6 spoiled ballots. In Manitoba a 60 per cent favorable vote is necessary to carry out such a plan.

Ramsey recommended

THE growing of Ramsey durum wheat in the rust area of eastern and south-eastern Saskatchewan has been recommended by the Sask. Advisory Council on Grain Crops. The Council says the new rust-resistant variety is suitable for growing in the normal rust area where durum production has been hazardous in recent years.

However, it is stated, outside of the rust area, yield data indicates that Ramsey does not have any advantage over the Stewart variety; neither is it earlier in maturing. The straw length of Ramsey, though, is better.

The Council emphasizes that seed stock of Ramsey should be sufficient and there is no need for farmers to pay fantastic prices for supplies. The growing of durum in districts roughly north of a line drawn through Wilkie, Saskatoon and Yorkton is not recommended. Farmers are also warned against any large expansion of durum acreage as there is indication this wheat may be in a surplus condition.

"LITTLE GIANT" SAWMILL EQUIPMENT

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With 16-ft. Carriage and 3 Head Blocks . . . **\$1,065.00**

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1 1/4 inch . . . 18c ft. 2 1/2 inch . . . 55c ft.

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1009 - 11th St. E., CALGARY, Alta.

1958 to see more grasshoppers

THE grasshopper infestation in Alberta is still confined to the extreme south of the province, but more damage may be expected in 1958 than in the last few years, says D. S. Smith, entomologist at Lethbridge.

The lesser migratory is the worst pest, he says, and more eggs of this grasshopper were found in the fall of 1957 than for several seasons.



USE GOOD SEED and make your farm pay off!

The use of good seed is the first step in producing high yielding, quality crops.

Top quality registered seed is reasonably priced this year and supplies are abundant.

Remember, your purchases can be paid for through over-quota deliveries.

See your Pool elevator agent for all of your seed needs. He has a complete price list and will be pleased to take your order.

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CALGARY, ALBERTA

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... Pellets ...

THE OBSERVATION tour gives the farmer a chance to see what the other fellow is doing, and to discuss a variety of subjects connected with farming. There will be tour opportunities in your province this year. Why not plan to take advantage of them?

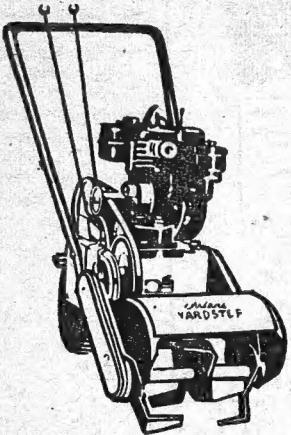
CONSUMPTION of Macaroni products last year in Canada was around a million pounds.

SOME AUTHORITIES expect the cattle feeding business to follow the lines of the broiler business with larger and larger feed lots; more efficiency of labor and in feeding, and becoming completely automatic. They predict the same trend in hog production.

TO STUDY farm problems under local conditions is the purpose of the illustration stations of the Canada Experimental Farms Service.

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ARIENS
Yardster
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Garden, Lawn and Yard care is a breeze with Ariens Yardster. Powered with 2 h.p., 4-cycle engine and self-propelled with optional 2-speed wheel drive. Just guide it!

Prepares seedbed. Cultivates garden, shrubs, orchard. Clears snow from walks, driveways. Yardster attachments on and off in minutes.

PRICED AMAZINGLY LOW.

For lowest priced Rotary Tiller see ARIENS JR.

For market gardens and large acreage the famous ARIENS trans-a-matic Rotary Tiller, unequalled for power, traction and performance.

See your ROBIN Dealer or write for information and literature.

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CALGARY, ALBERTA

DURING 1958 Canadian Utilities Ltd. plan an expenditure of \$750,000.00 to extend rural electrification to 800 farms in Alberta. Completions to 1,000 farms were made in 1957.

16-YEAR-OLD Bernadette Hiebert, of Bay Trail, Sask., was the Saskatchewan winner of the weed essay contest offered by the North Central Weed Control Conference. The Conference includes 14 States and the 3 prairie provinces.

STUDIES, on an agricultural basis, are being made of the world's humid regions which comprise 36% of the earth's surface. Experiments conducted, for instance, on the flood plains of the Amazon (now largely unuseable, have resulted in yields of nearly two tons of rice per hectare (2.47) acres.

40,000 CHILDREN are born into India every hour. The death rate in India is high, but none the less 11 million people are being added, presently, to a population of around 400,000,000, every year.

FARMERS out live their city cousins, but the same thing does not apply to their dogs. City dogs, reared on soft living and no work, live 2 to 3 years longer than the average country dog.

35 PUREBRED Holstein-Friesian calves have recently been shipped from Malton (Ontario) by air to Naples, Italy. The shipment is part of a program for the improvement of Italian livestock.

MORE THAN HALF of the newspaper pages printed in the world are printed on Canadian produced newsprint.

NEVER refuel your tractor, your car, or any other gasoline burning engine when the motor is running, or when it is over-heated.

THE BEST way to combat infertility and other breeding problems in cattle is to purchase replacement animals only from disease-free herds.

A FARMER, says a U.S. expert, gets more for his dollar spent having his soil tested and properly fertilized than any other dollar he spends in producing a crop.

VIOLENT SNEEZING and running noses is the first sign of atrophic rhinitis in pigs.

YOUR OPERATOR'S manual should be checked for plow adjustments. Proper adjustment means better penetration, better trash coverage, uses less gas and causes less fatigue to the driver.

MANITOBA has one of the largest and most valuable fresh-water fishing industries in the world. Over 34,000,000 pounds of commercially-caught fresh-water fish are produced each year. Nearly one-half of this amount comes from 9,230-square-mile-Lake Winnipeg.

OVER HALF of Manitoba's land area is forested the most common tree species being white and black spruce, jack pine, aspen and balsam poplar, tamarack, white birch, balsam fir and cedar. There is also bur oak, white elm, green ash, basswood, red pine, Manitoba maple, cottonwood and black ash.

AS OUR ... Vice-President ... SEES IT

The producers' Co-operatives in the dairy industry have a very large responsibility. They are handling a commodity that is highly perishable, one that comes to them in small units, and is distributed in small units. It is also a commodity that is meeting constant competition from new and improved methods of processing and manufacturing. Their object is to handle all or nearly all the farmers' products that come under their jurisdiction, and at the same time they must build up and maintain a market for those products. This necessitates the storing of fairly large quantities of supplies at certain times in order to be able to guarantee supply to customers; which also results in the need of a considerable amount of capital.

In as few words as possible, I would like to explain about what happens when a new shipper sends his produce to the Central Alberta Dairy Pool. As soon as the Central Alberta Dairy Pool takes delivery of his product, he becomes a member and receives what the private trade considers the market price for his product. He also inherits a portion of all the assets of the Central Alberta Dairy Pool which have been built up through 33 years of loyalty and effort on the part of the early member who started with no experience but an idea. He has the use of all this to process, store, and sell his finished product, and if at the end of the year an earning has been made on that product, it is credited to him in the form of reserves; and constitutes the part of the organization that he is acquiring from the older member who is retired and has no further use for the facilities. Inasmuch as the foregoing is briefed history of the experience of a new member or shipper to the Central Alberta Dairy Pool, it should be apparent to any producer that at the present time he can build up an equity in the Central Alberta Dairy Pool with absolutely no sacrifice or cost on his part. All it costs him is his patronage to the organization and during his active years as a producer he can build up assets that will have a real value upon his retirement, and in many cases, may make it possible for him to retire years younger than would otherwise have been the case.

Through the years, with proper co-operation from the producers, the Central Alberta Dairy Pool besides building up a large business has built up capital in the form of reserves, which along with the credit we are able to use because of these reserves, enables us to operate your business, meeting competition and still making progress each year. I think this can be effectively proven, because we handle a far greater percentage of the total volume of products which come under our jurisdiction than do any other producers' co-operatives in our area. By working together producers, you and I and our neighbors have obtained an enviable goal in self-help and progress. Let us continue to work that we may keep it that way, always trying to progressively do a better job.

Co-operatively yours,

J. J. STONE,

Alix, Alberta.

Central Alberta Dairy Pool

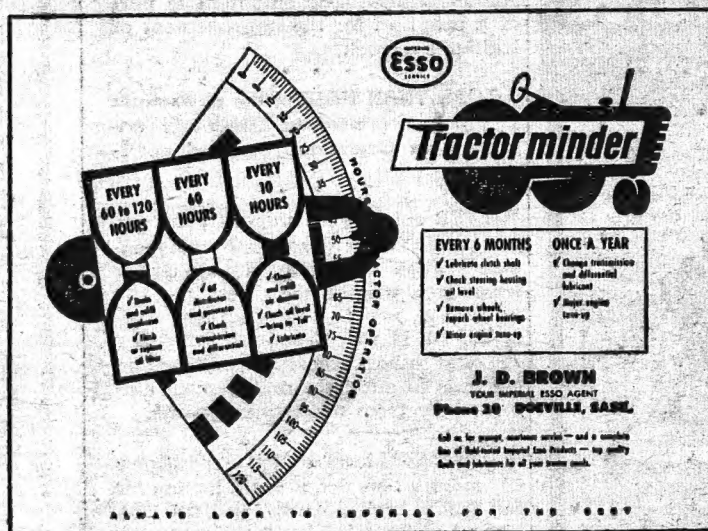
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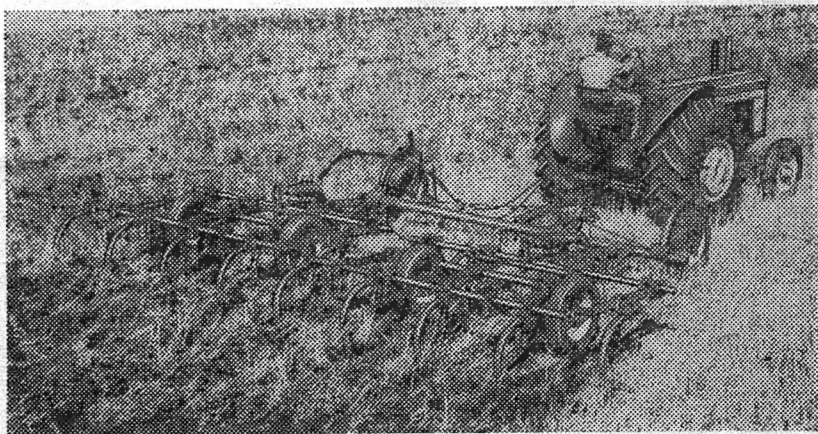
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